

R. GOSCINNY **Asterix** A. UDERZO

Asterix and the SOOTHSAYER

Written by René GOSCINNY

Illustrated by Albert UDERZO



GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

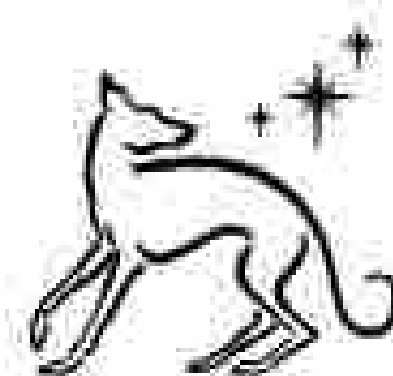
PRESENT

An Asterix Adventure

ASTERIX AND THE SOOTHSAYER

Written by RENÉ GOSCINNY *and Illustrated by* ALBERT UDERZO

Translated by Anthea Bell *and* Derek Hockridge



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AN ORION CHILDREN'S EBOOK

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THE YEAR IS 50 BC. GAUL IS ENTIRELY OCCUPIED BY THE ROMANS. WELL, NOT ENTIRELY ... ONE SMALL VILLAGE OF INDOMITABLE GAULS STILL HOLDS OUT AGAINST THE INVADERS. AND LIFE IS NOT EASY FOR THE ROMAN LEGIONARIES WHO GARRISON THE FORTIFIED CAMPS OF TOTORUM, AQUARIUM, LAUDANUM AND COMPENDIUM ...



ASTERIX, THE HERO OF THESE ADVENTURES. A SHREWD, CUNNING LITTLE WARRIOR, ALL PERILOUS MISSIONS ARE IMMEDIATELY ENTRUSTED TO HIM. ASTERIX GETS HIS SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH FROM THE MAGIC POTION BREWED BY THE DRUID GETAFIX . . .



OBELIX, ASTERIX'S INSEPARABLE FRIEND. A MENHIR DELIVERY MAN BY TRADE, ADDICTED TO WILD BOAR. OBELIX IS ALWAYS READY TO DROP EVERYTHING AND GO OFF ON A NEW ADVENTURE WITH ASTERIX - SO LONG AS THERE'S WILD BOAR TO EAT, AND PLENTY OF FIGHTING. HIS CONSTANT COMPANION IS DOGMATIX, THE ONLY KNOWN CANINE ECOLOGIST, WHO HOWLS WITH DESPAIR WHEN A TREE IS CUT DOWN.



GETAFIX, THE VENERABLE VILLAGE DRUID, GATHERS MISTLETOE AND BREWS MAGIC POTIONS. HIS SPECIALITY IS THE POTION WHICH GIVES THE DRINKER SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH. BUT GETAFIX ALSO HAS OTHER RECIPES UP HIS SLEEVE . . .

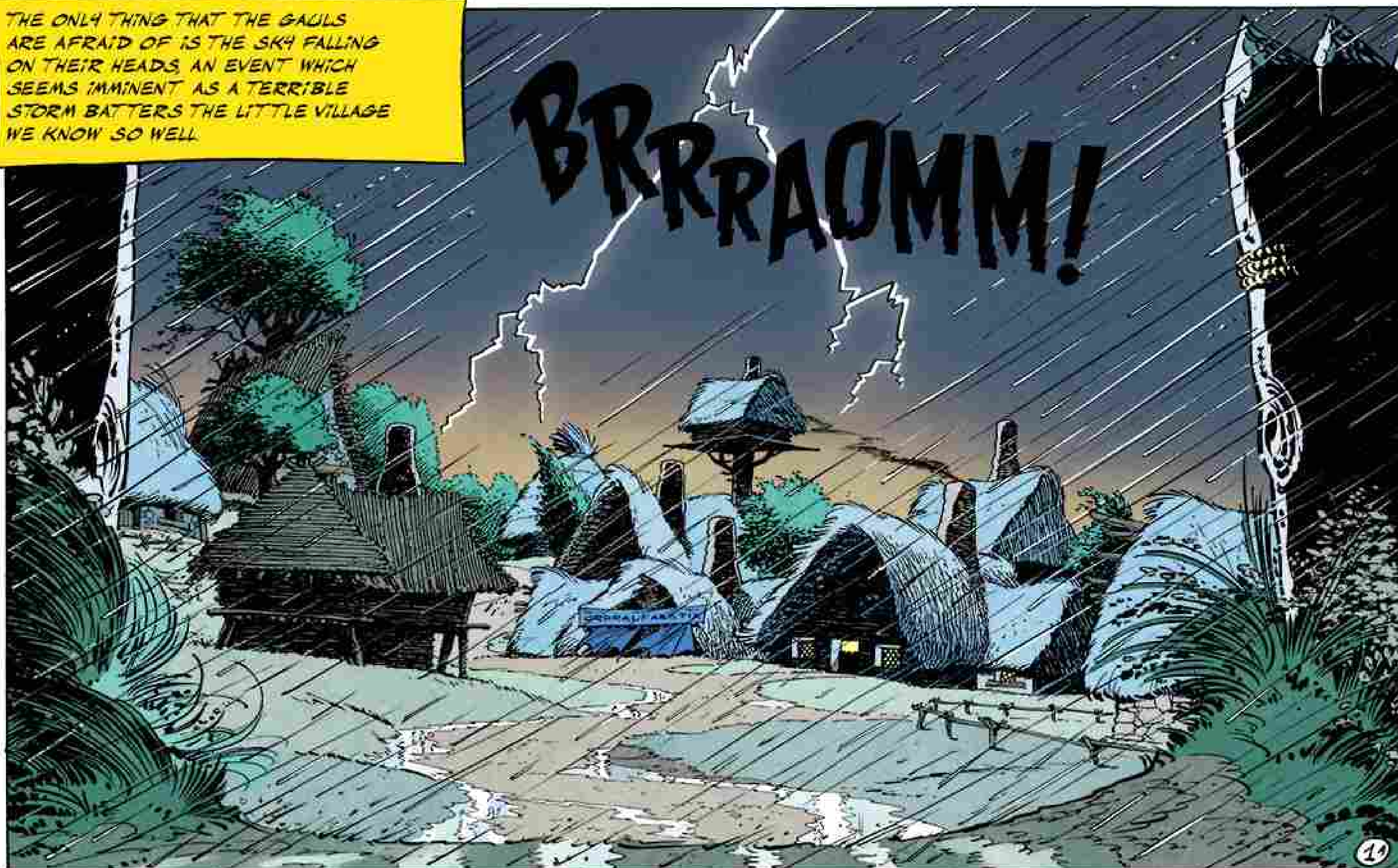


CACOFONIX, THE BARD. OPINION IS DIVIDED AS TO HIS MUSICAL GIFTS. CACOFONIX THINKS HE'S A GENIUS. EVERYONE ELSE THINKS HE'S UNSPEAKABLE. BUT SO LONG AS HE DOESN'T SPEAK, LET ALONE SING, EVERYBODY LIKES HIM . . .



FINALLY, VITALSTATISTIX, THE CHIEF OF THE TRIBE. MAJESTIC, BRAVE AND HOT-TEMPERED, THE OLD WARRIOR IS RESPECTED BY HIS MEN AND FEARED BY HIS ENEMIES. VITALSTATISTIX HIMSELF HAS ONLY ONE FEAR, HE IS AFRAID THE SKY MAY FALL ON HIS HEAD TOMORROW. BUT AS HE ALWAYS SAYS, TOMORROW NEVER COMES.

THE ONLY THING THAT THE GAULS ARE AFRAID OF IS THE SKY FALLING ON THEIR HEADS. AN EVENT WHICH SEEMS IMMINENT AS A TERRIBLE STORM BATTERS THE LITTLE VILLAGE WE KNOW SO WELL.



ALL THE TOP PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE HAVE GATHERED TOGETHER IN THE HOUSE OF CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX...



THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF! WE'VE HAD STORMS BEFORE. THIS IS QUITE A BAD ONE, I AGREE, BUT...

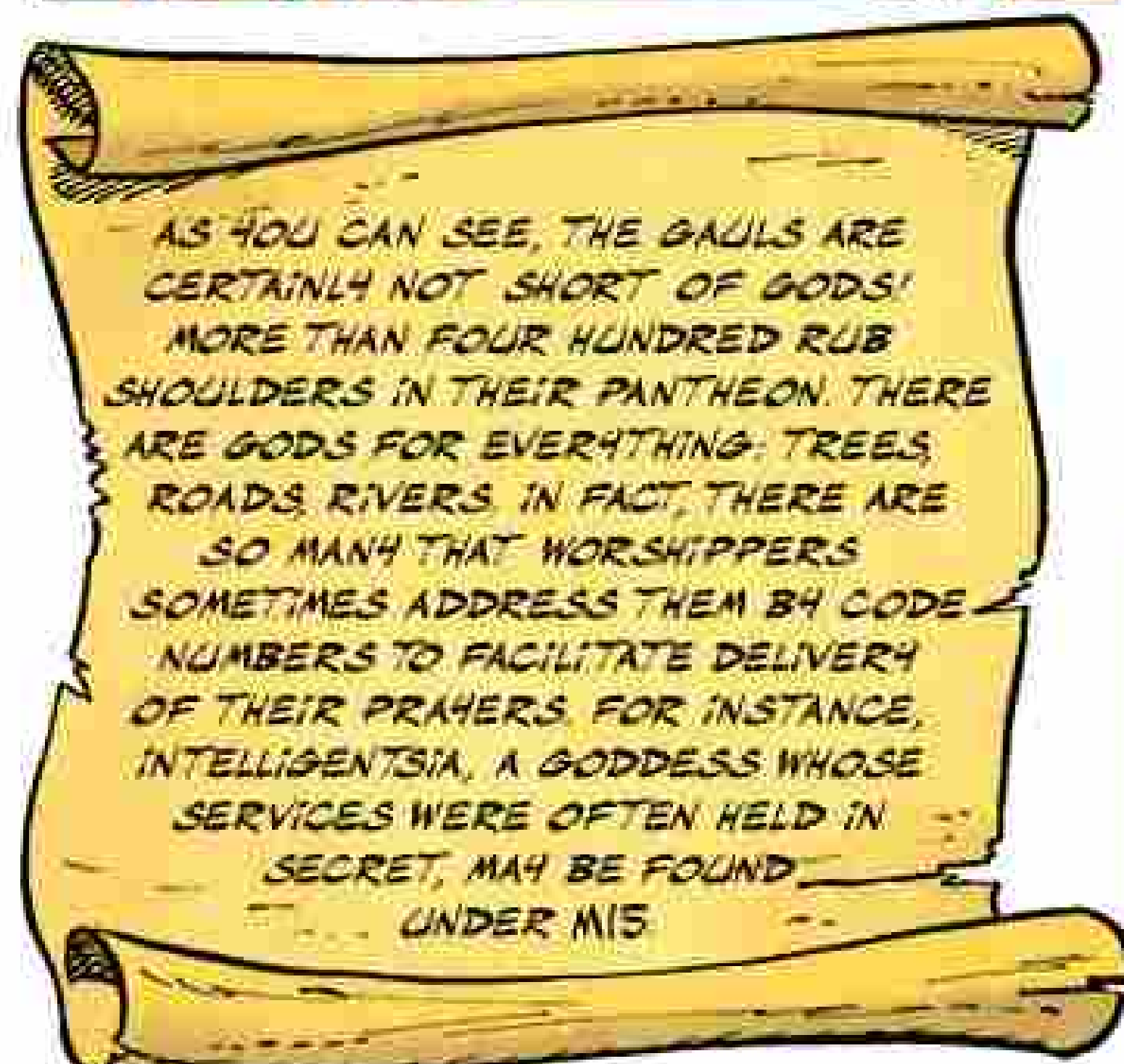
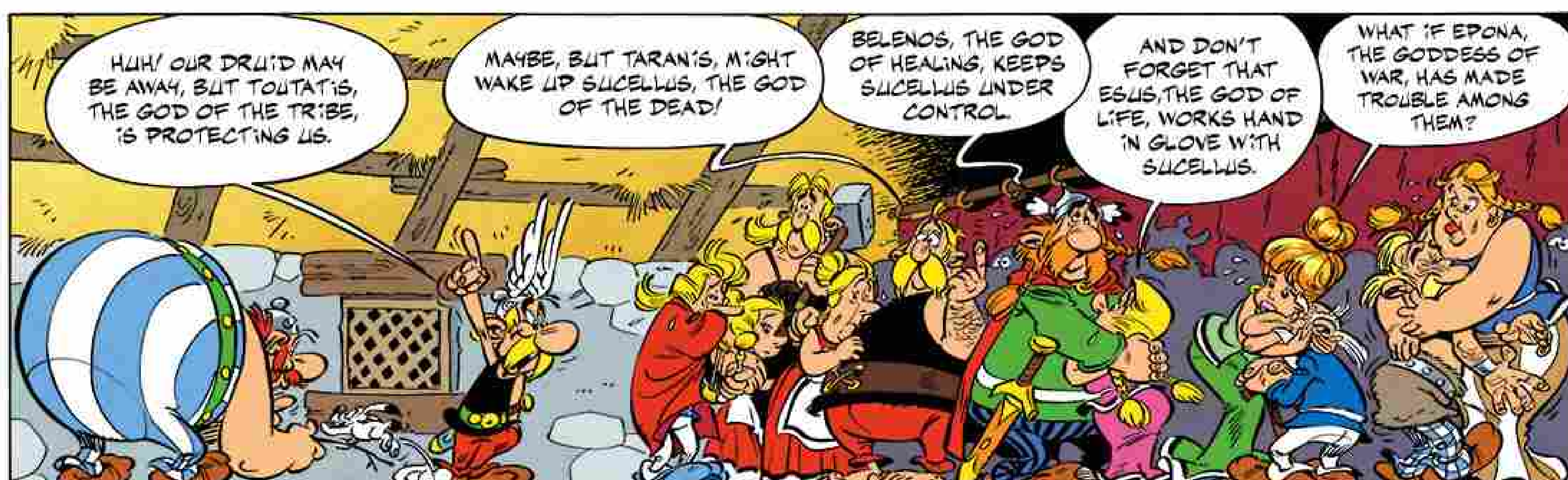


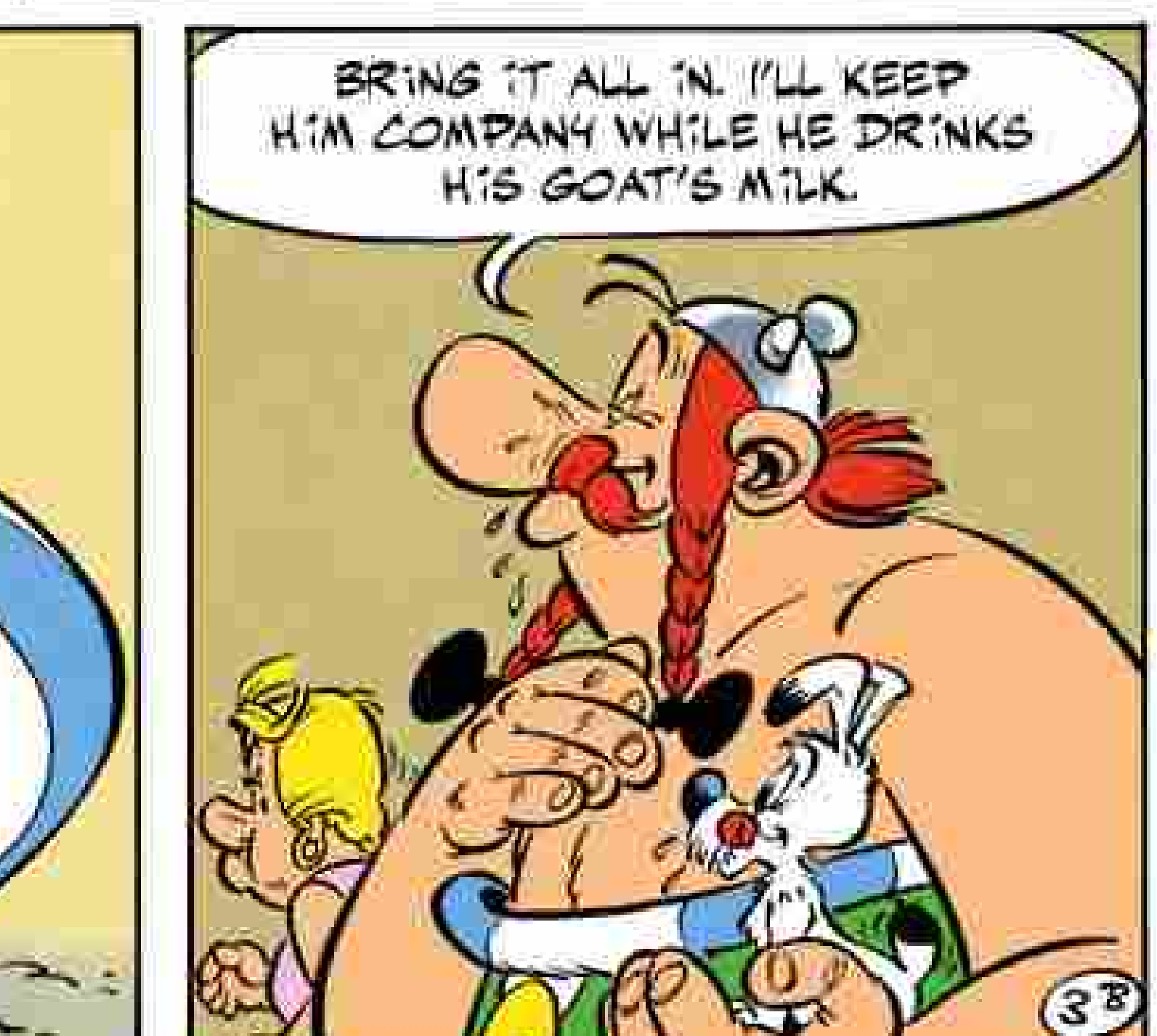
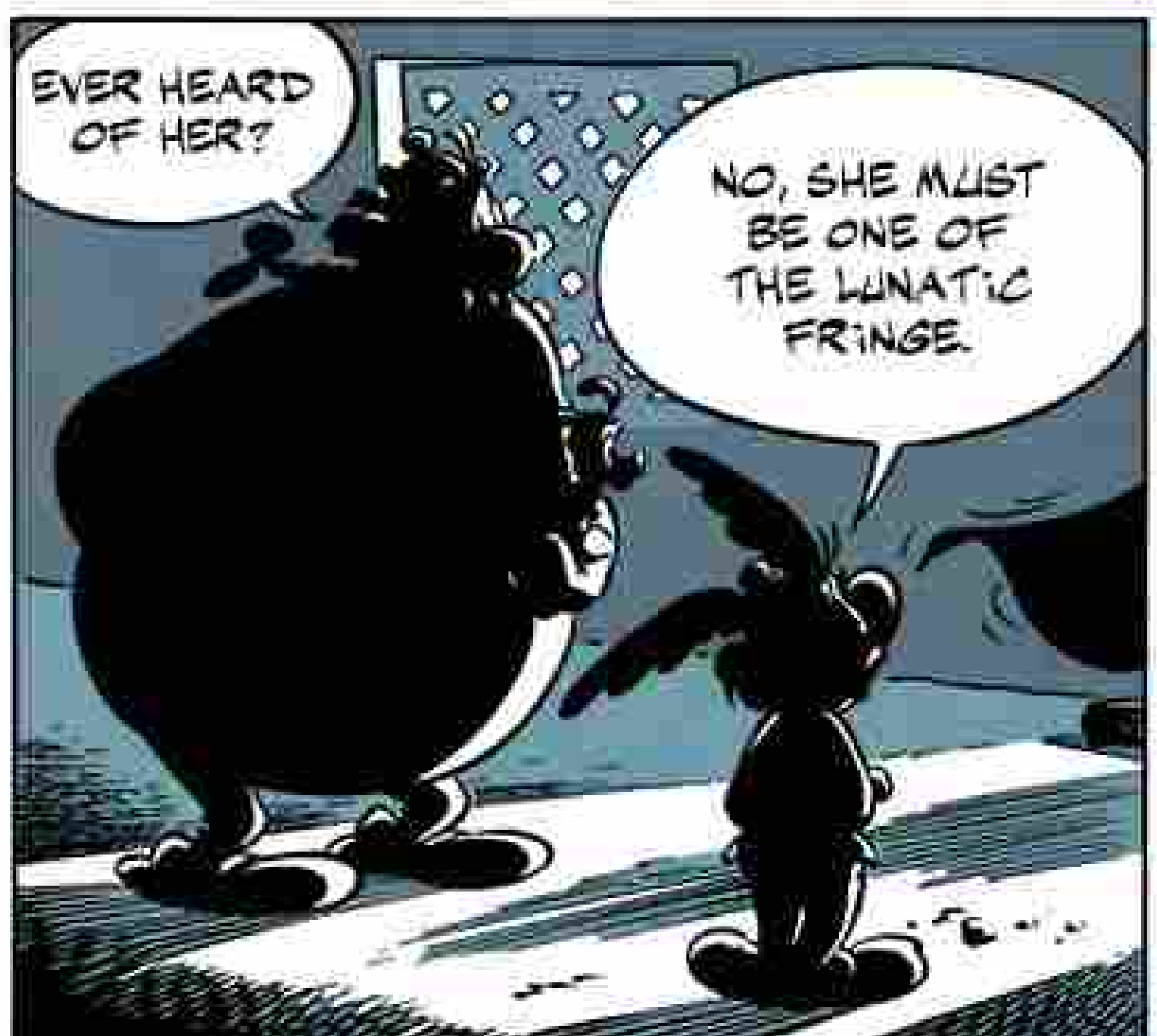
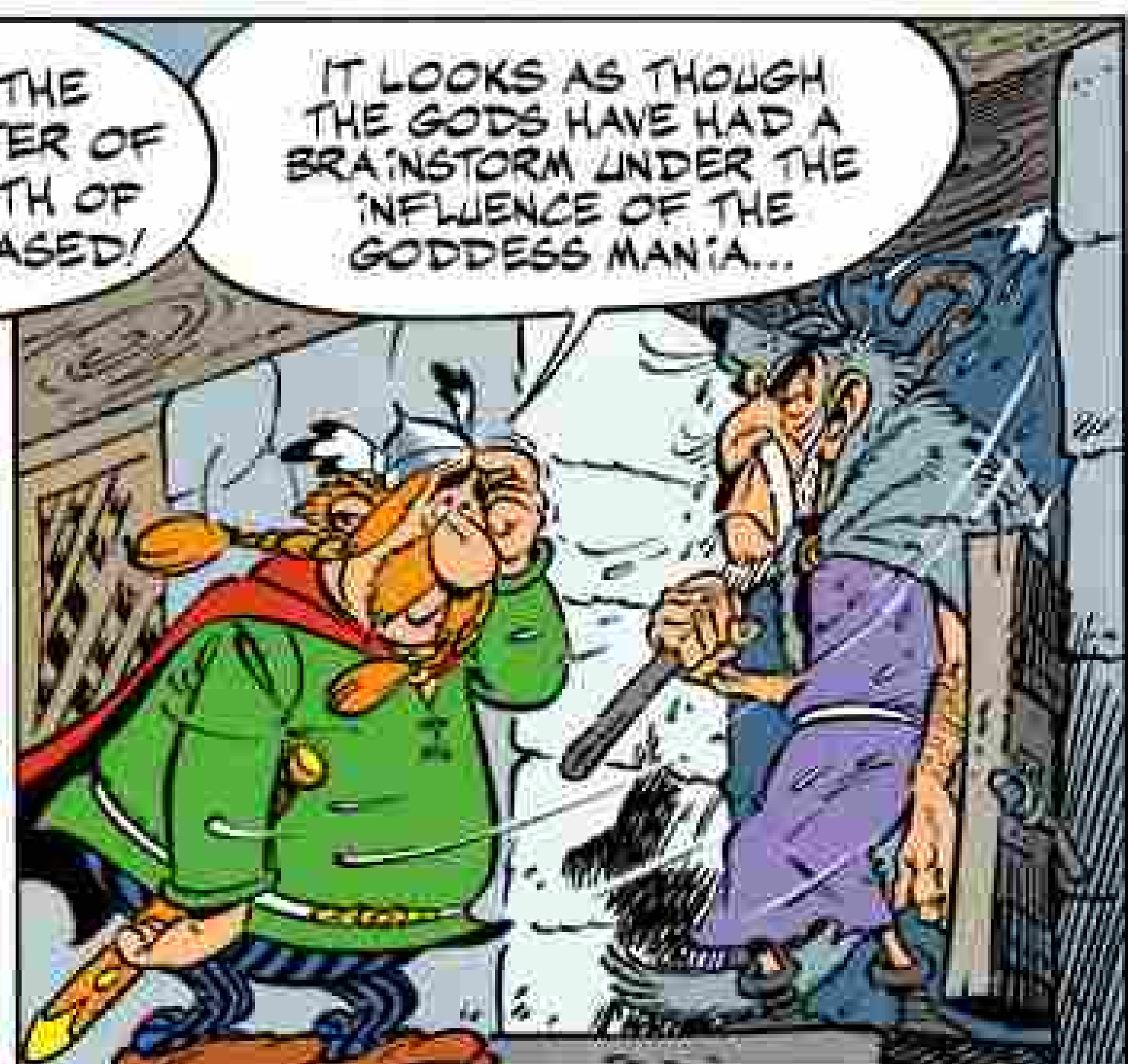
SUPPOSE I SING SOMETHING TO BOOST OUR MORALE?

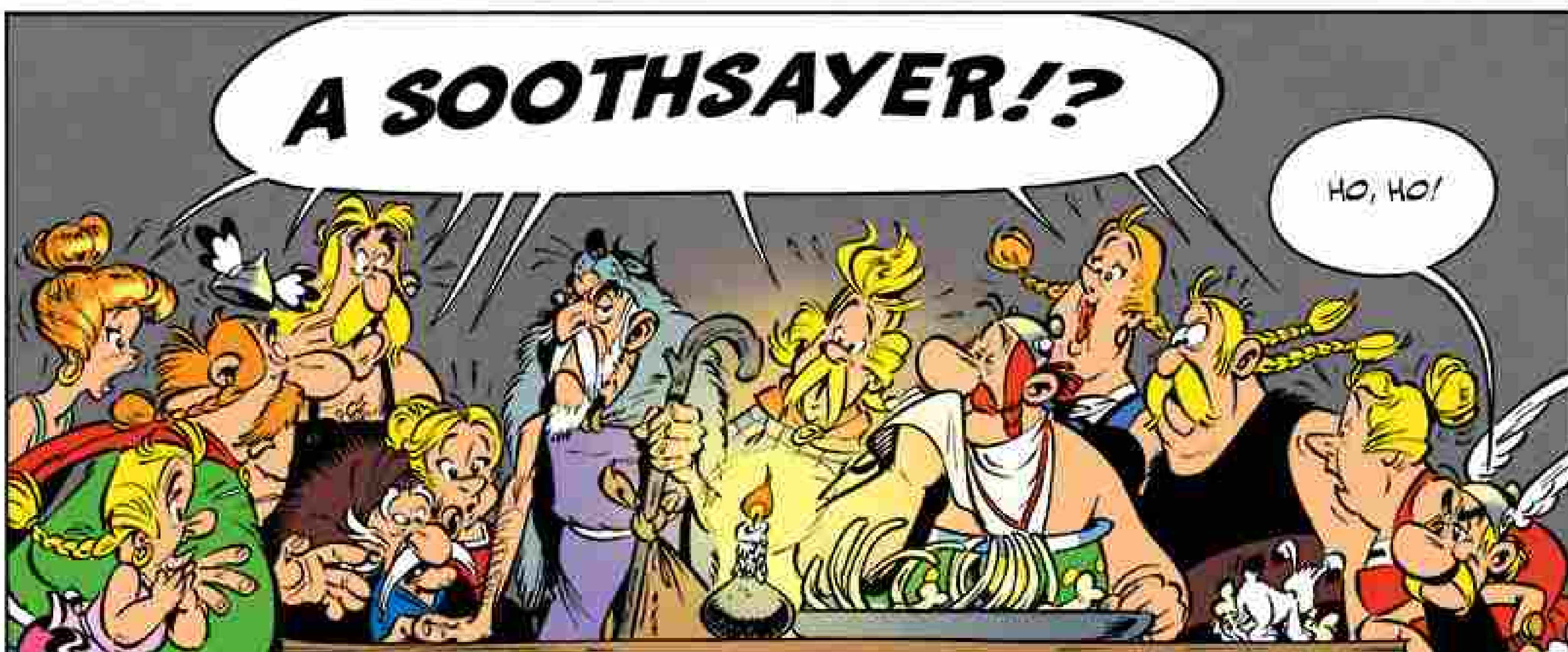
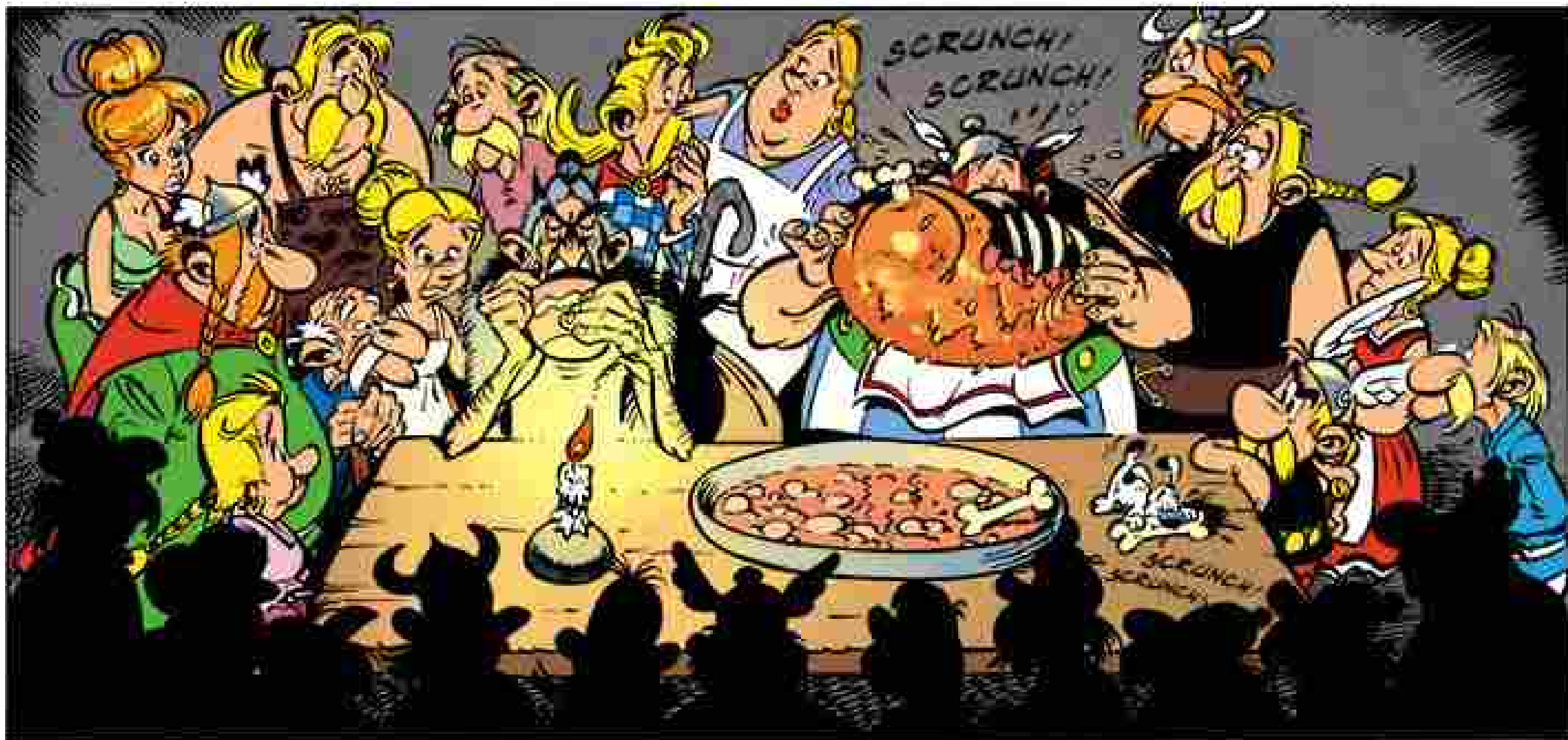


TARANIS, THE GOD OF THUNDER, DOESN'T THINK MUCH OF THAT SUGGESTION!

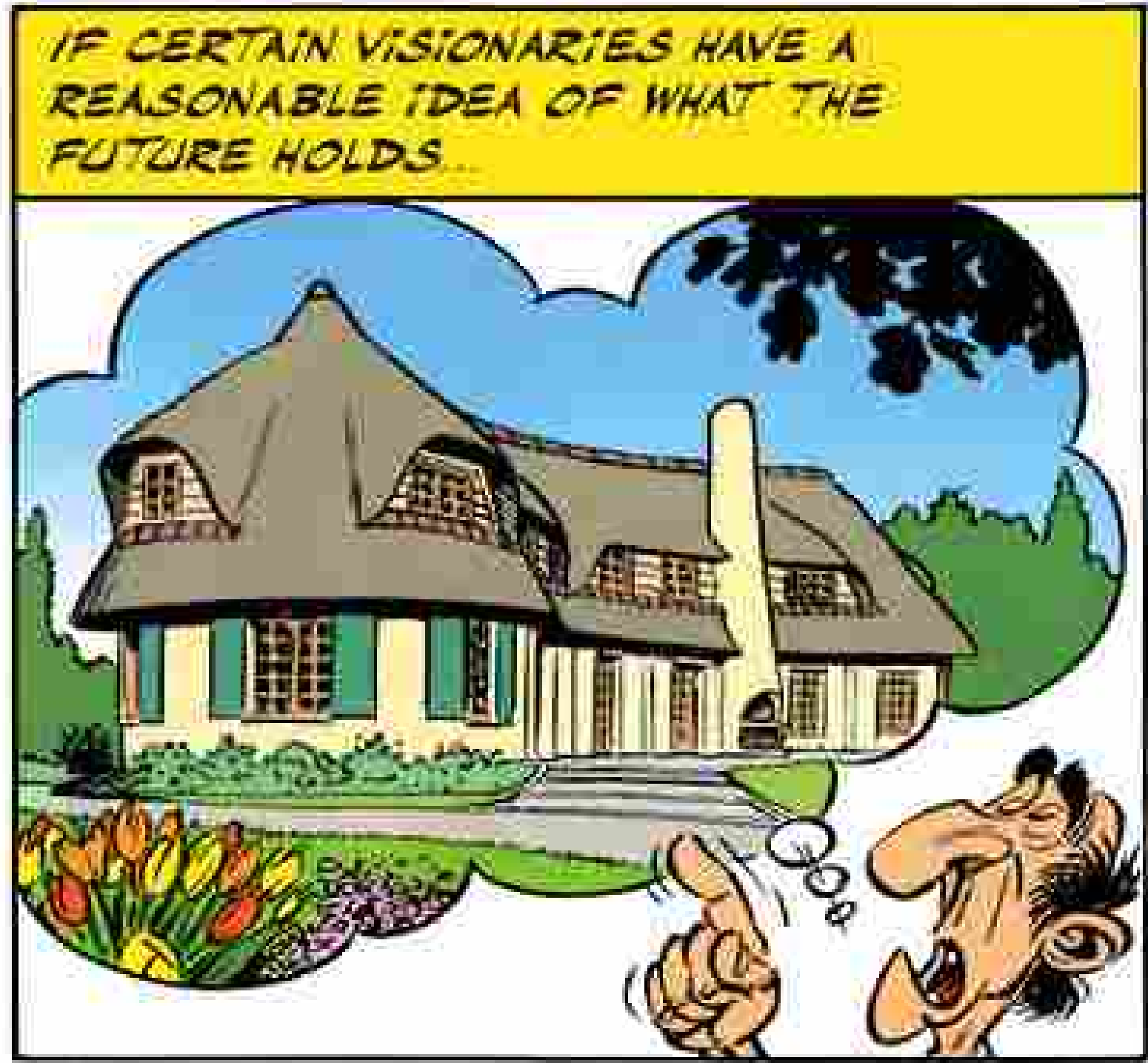
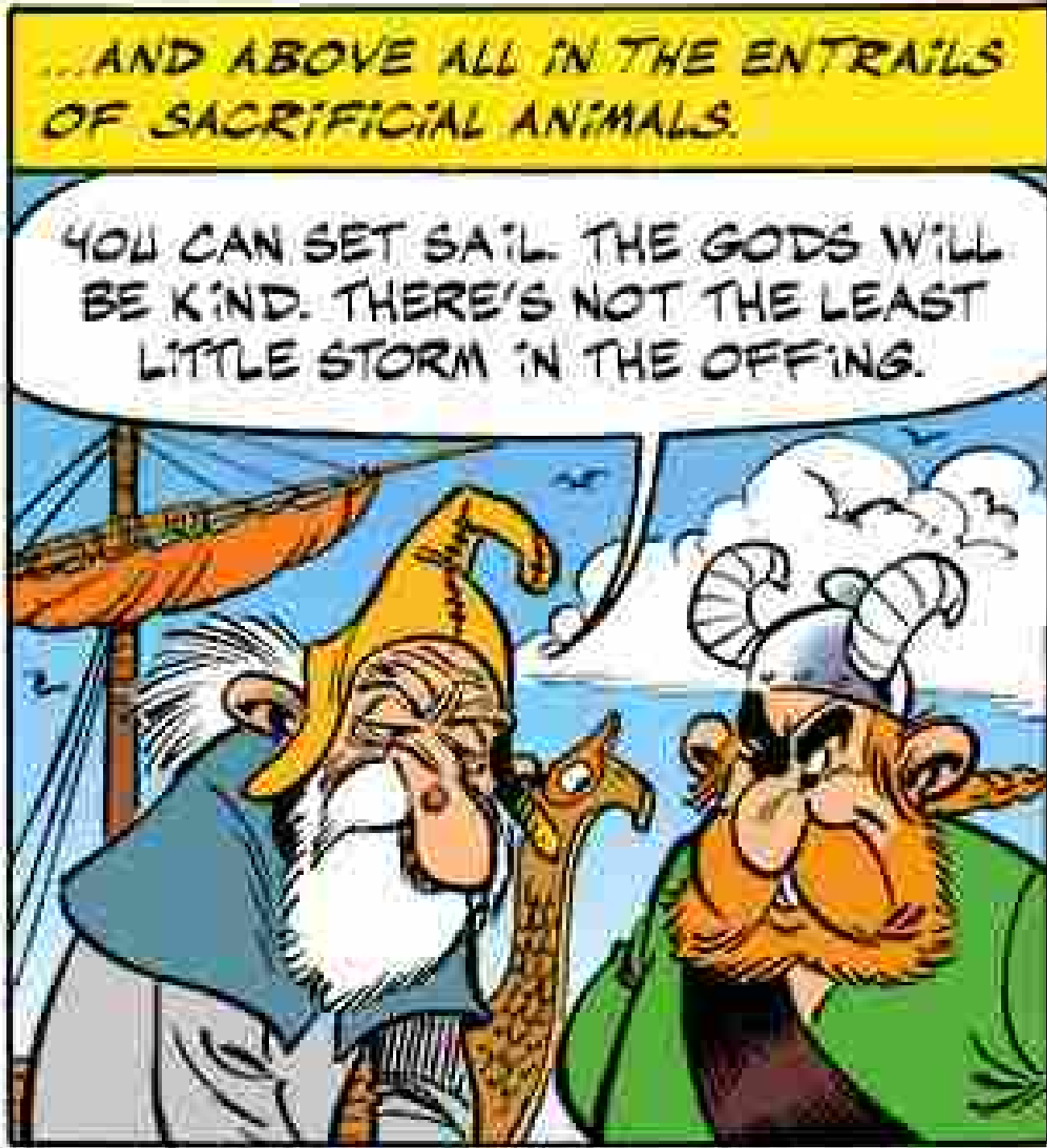
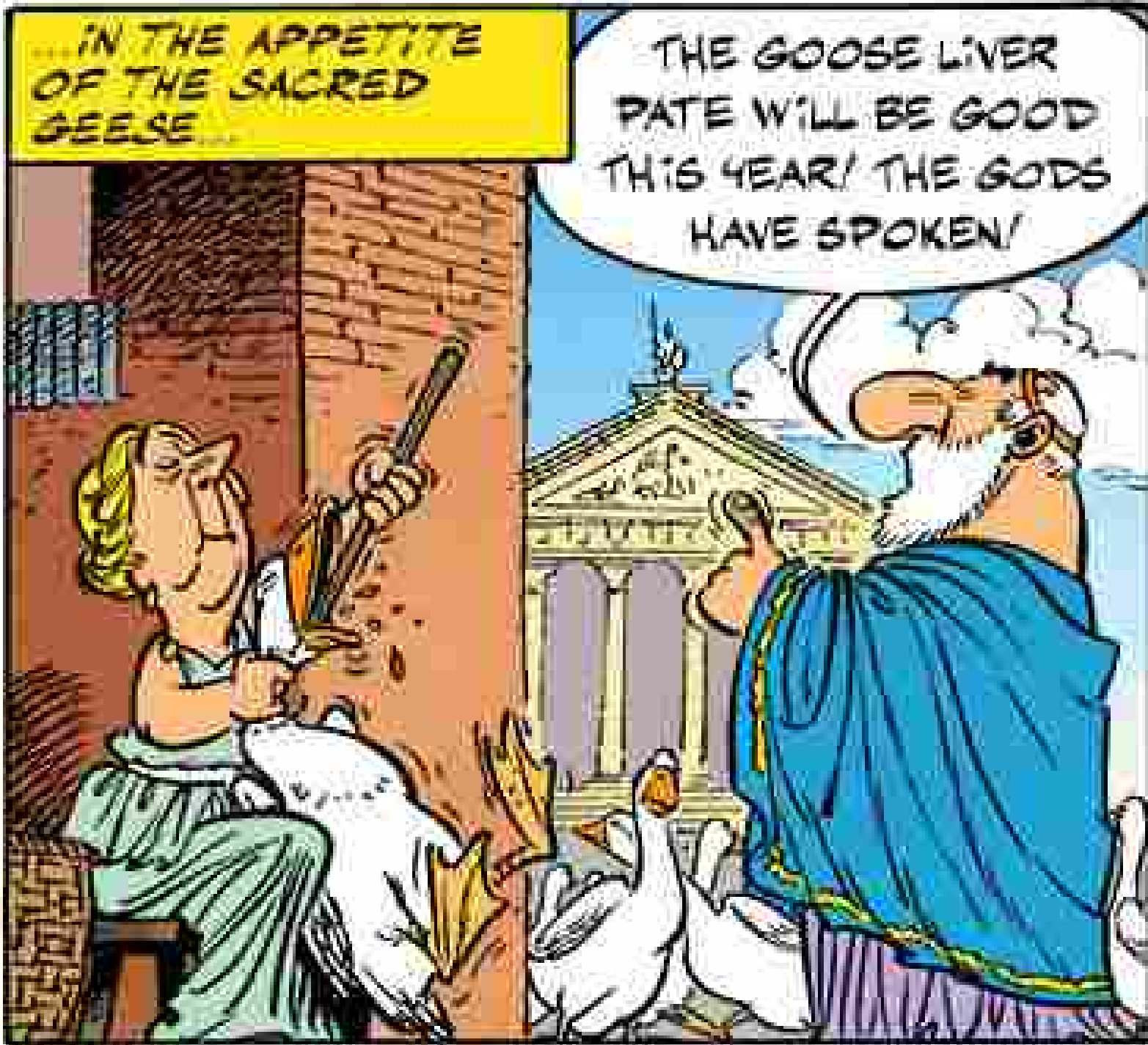




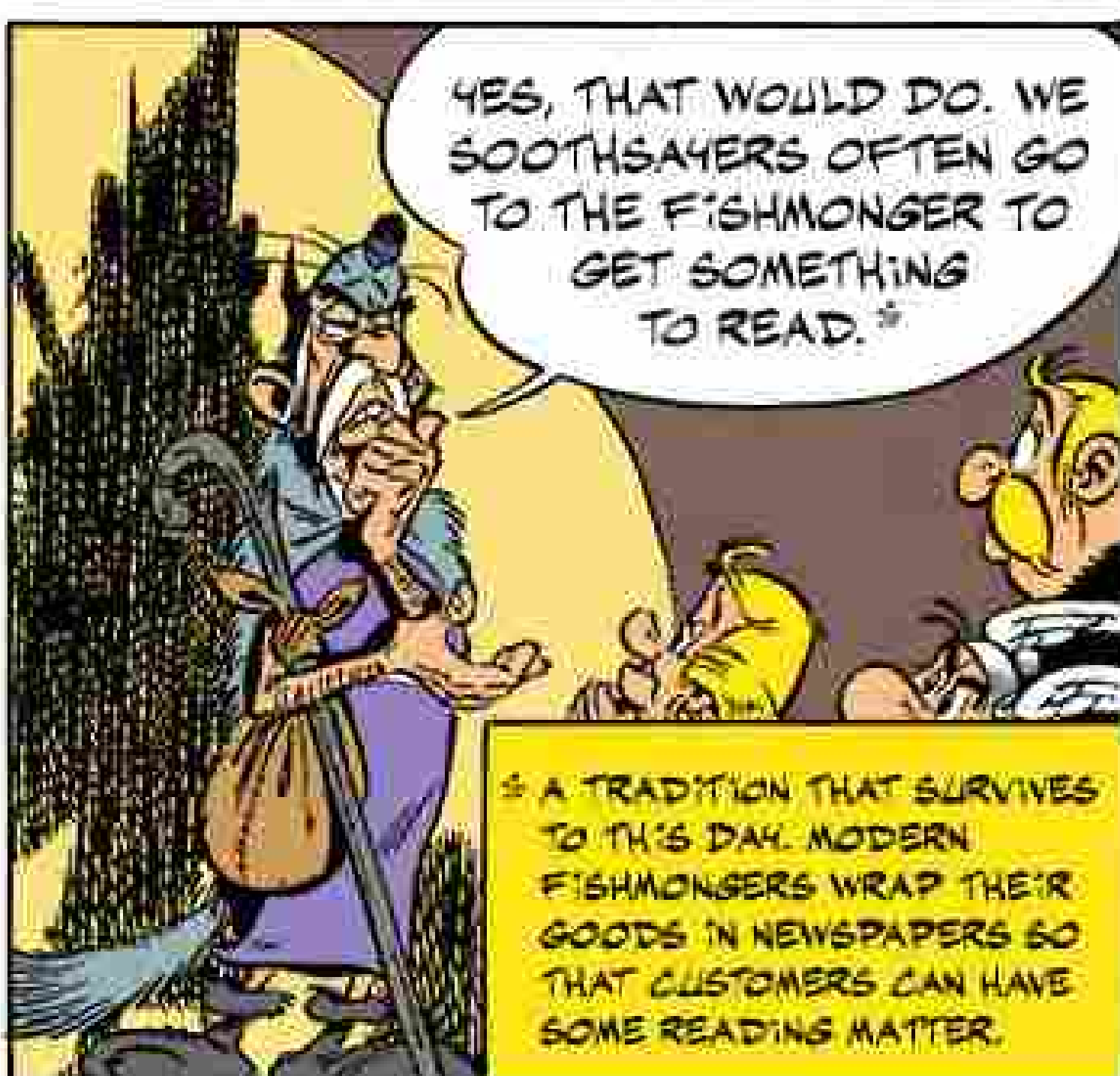


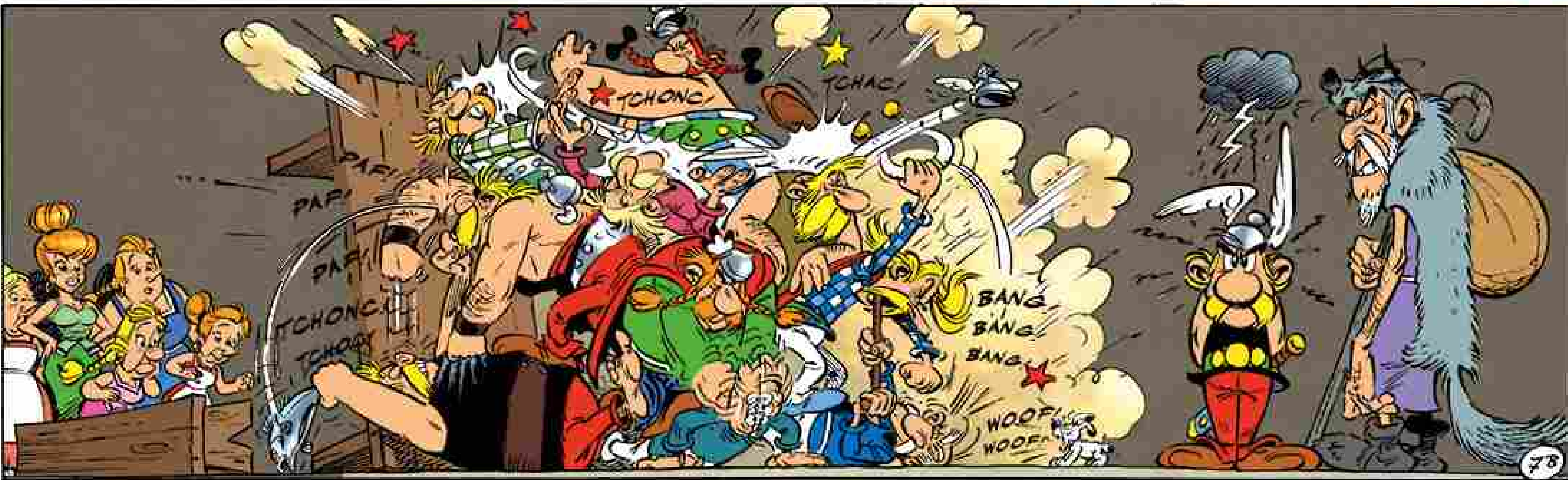
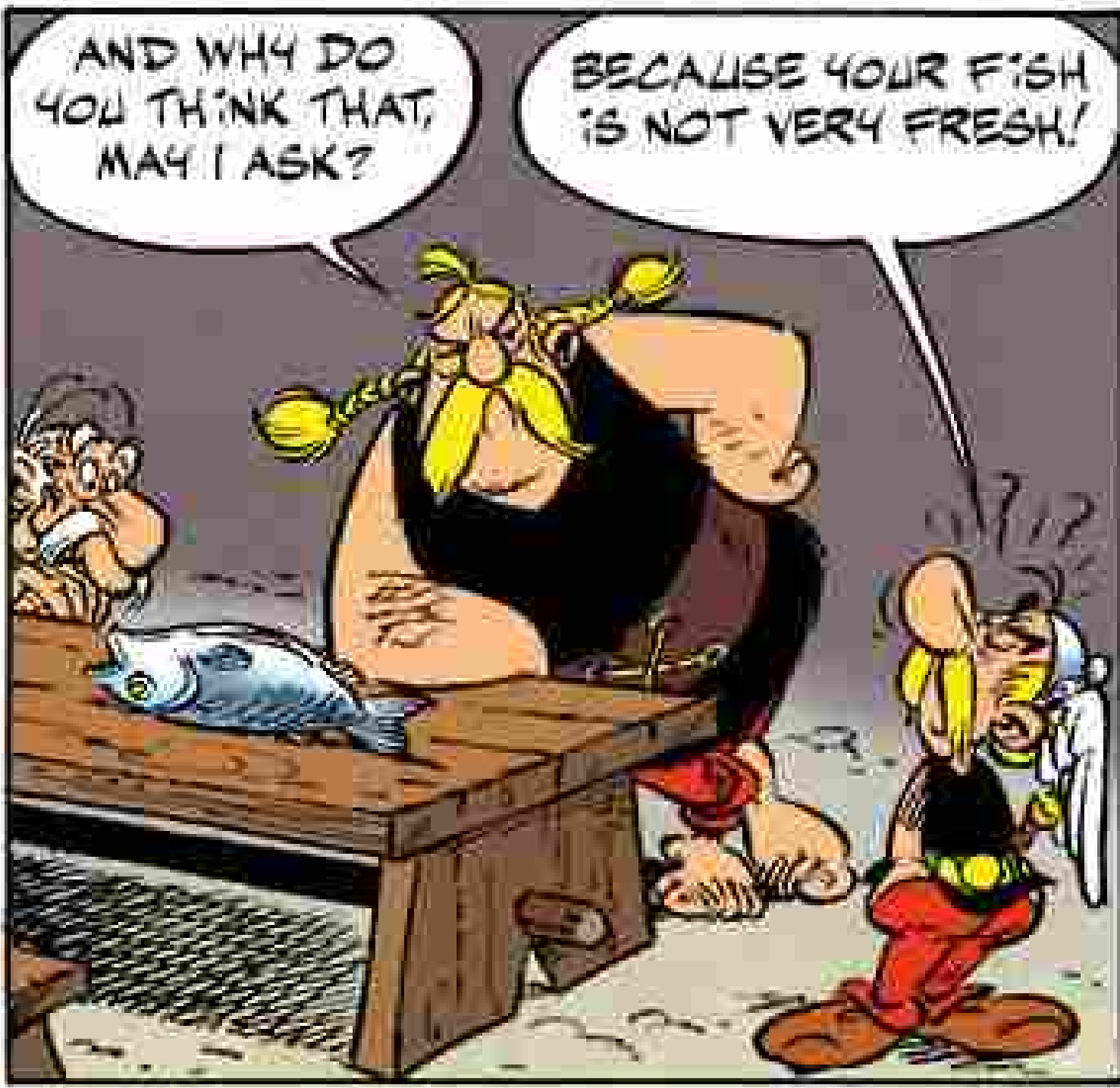
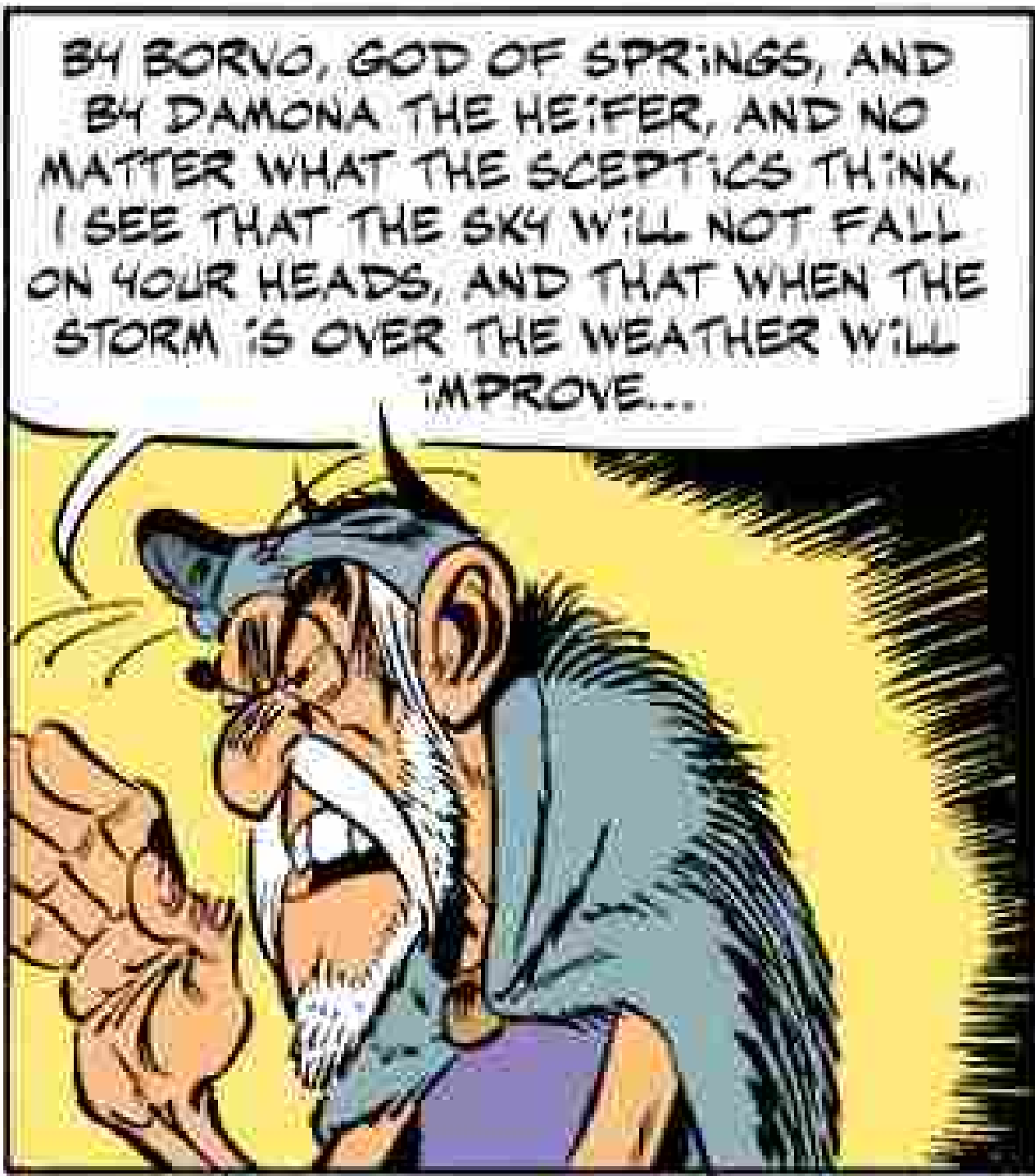


ASTERIX'S SCEPTICISM HAS NO EFFECT. SUBJECTED TO THE INFLUENCE OF SO MANY GODS, WHO BOTH PROTECT AND THREATEN THEM, THE NATIONS OF ANTIQUITY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ADVANCE NOTICE OF THEIR WHIMS. HERE WE MUST INSERT A PARENTHESIS...



IN SHORT, THEY ARE CHARLATANS WHO THRIVE ON CREDULITY, FEAR AND HUMAN SUPERSTITION. HERE WE CLOSE THE PARENTHESIS.



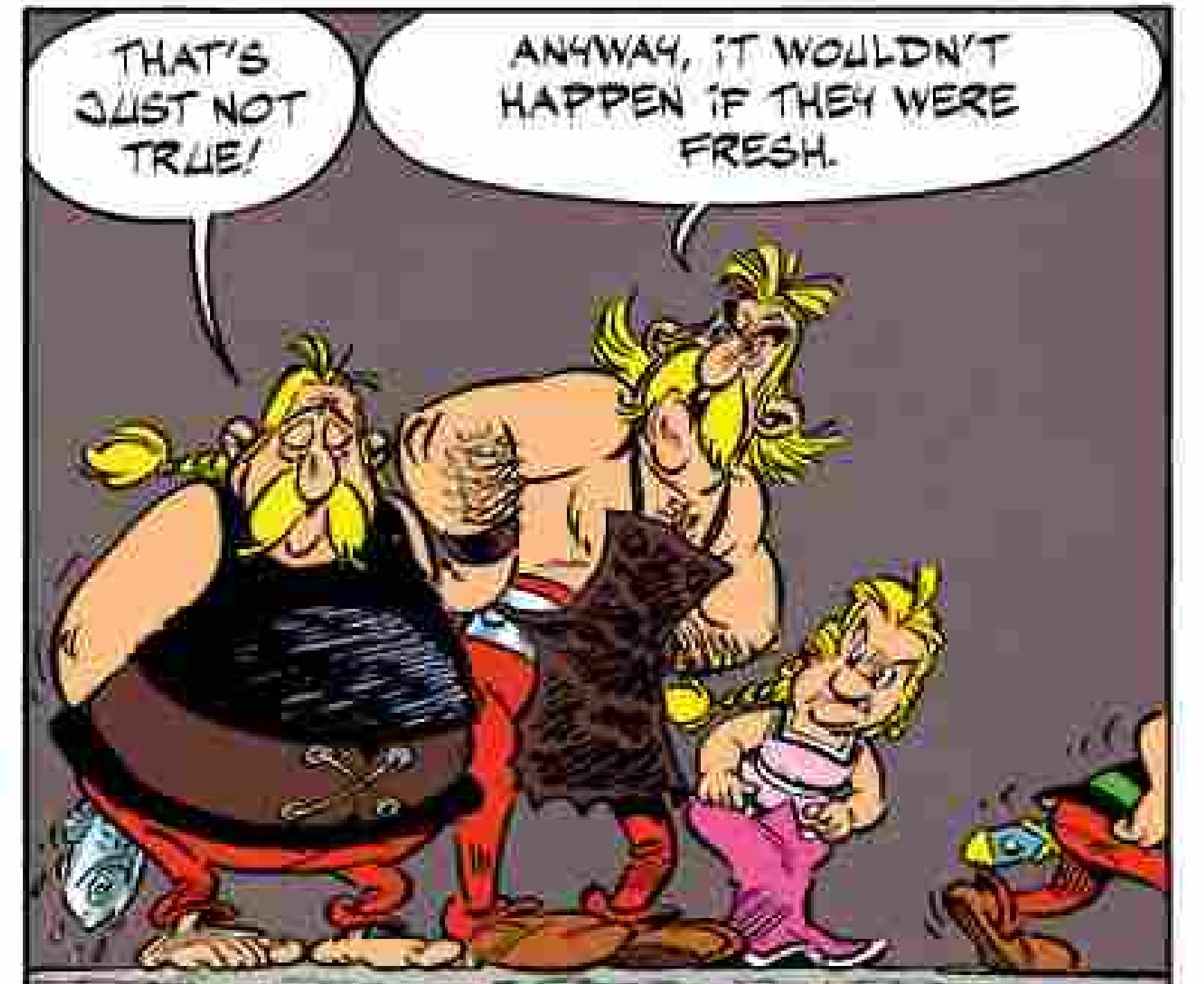




HE MUST BE CLEVER!

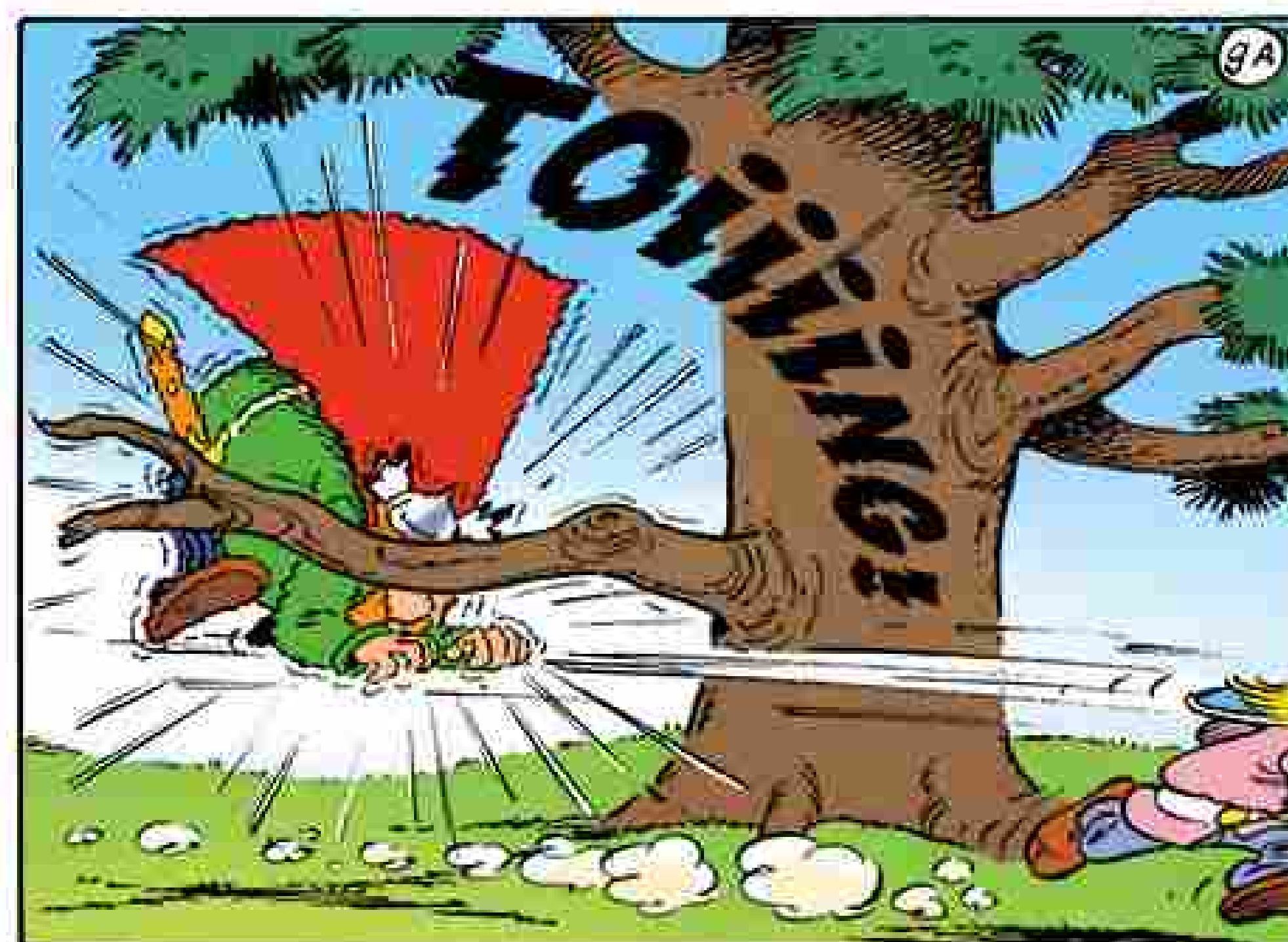


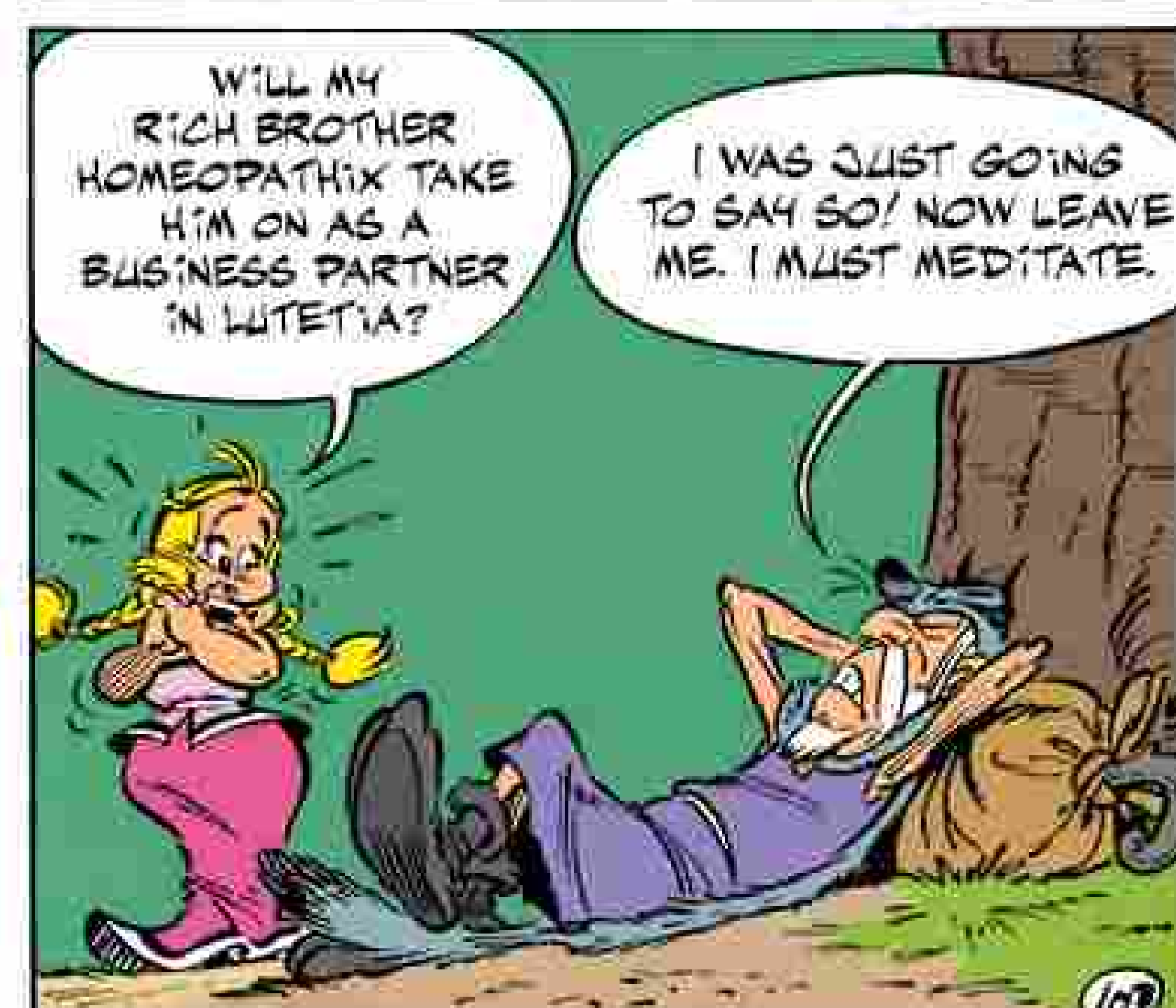
HE SOON REALISED THAT FIGHTS ARE TWO A SESTERTIUS HERE... ANYWAY, WHENEVER WE DISCUSS YOUR FISH THERE'S BOUND TO BE A FIGHT!

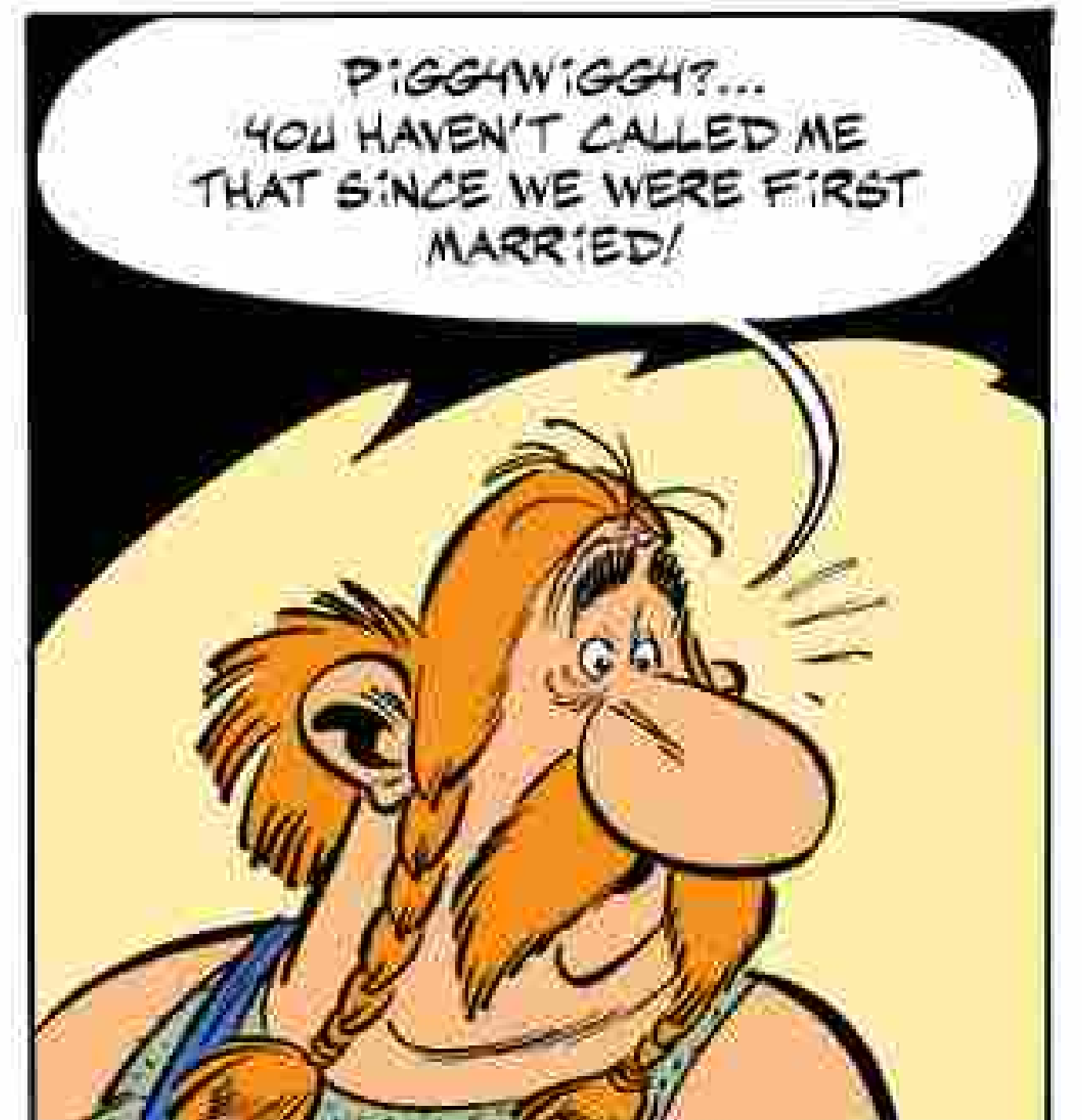
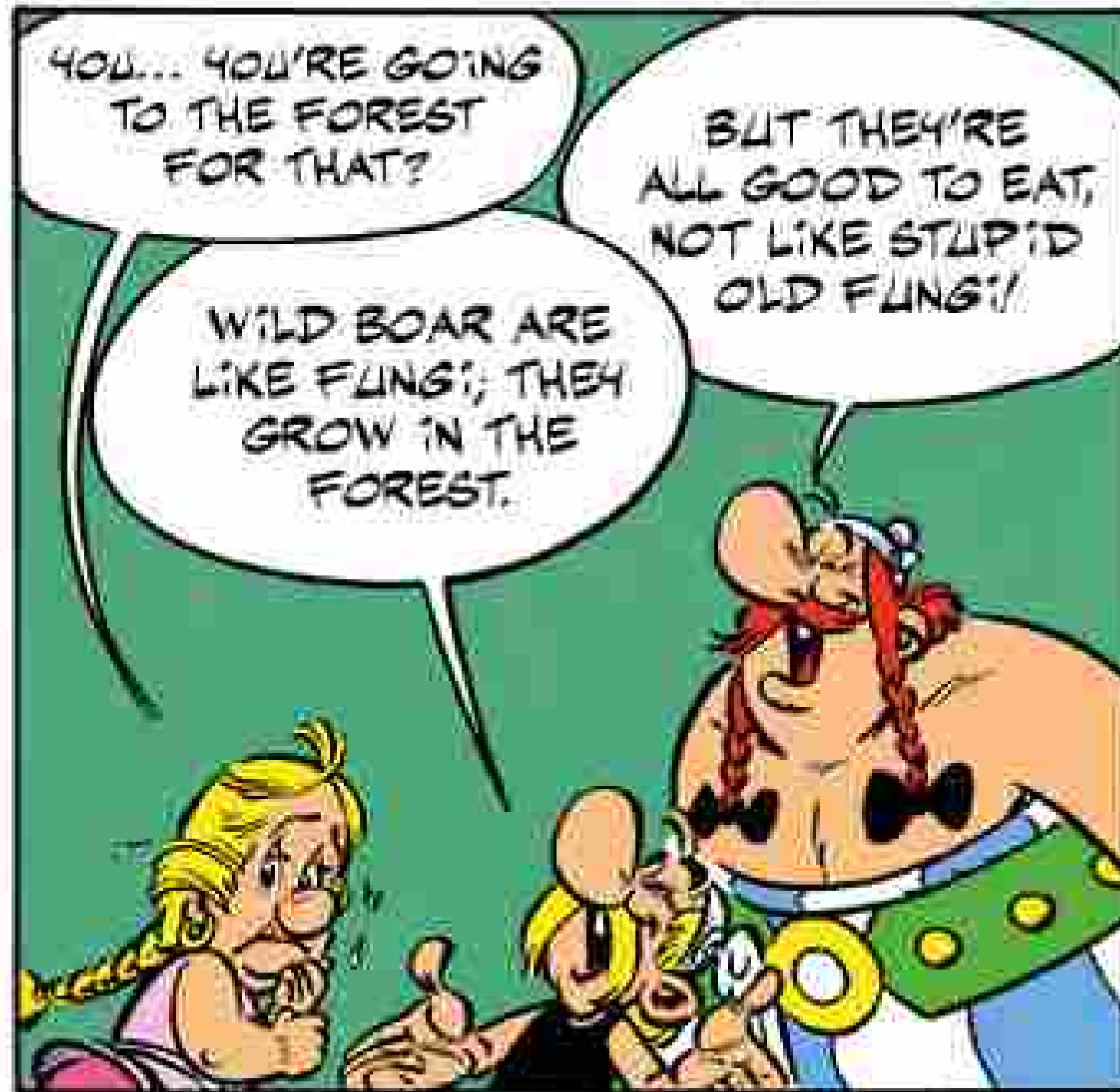


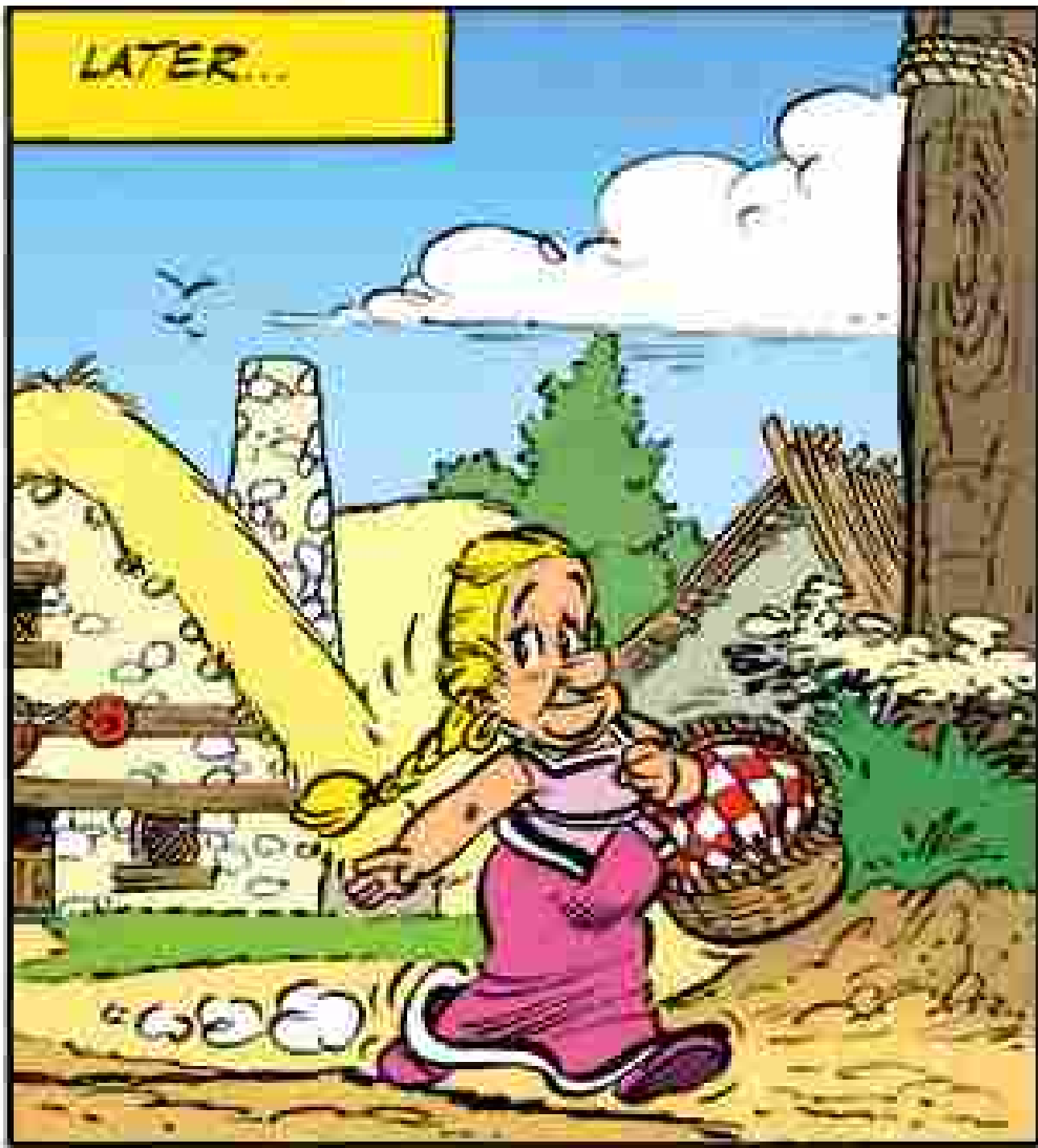
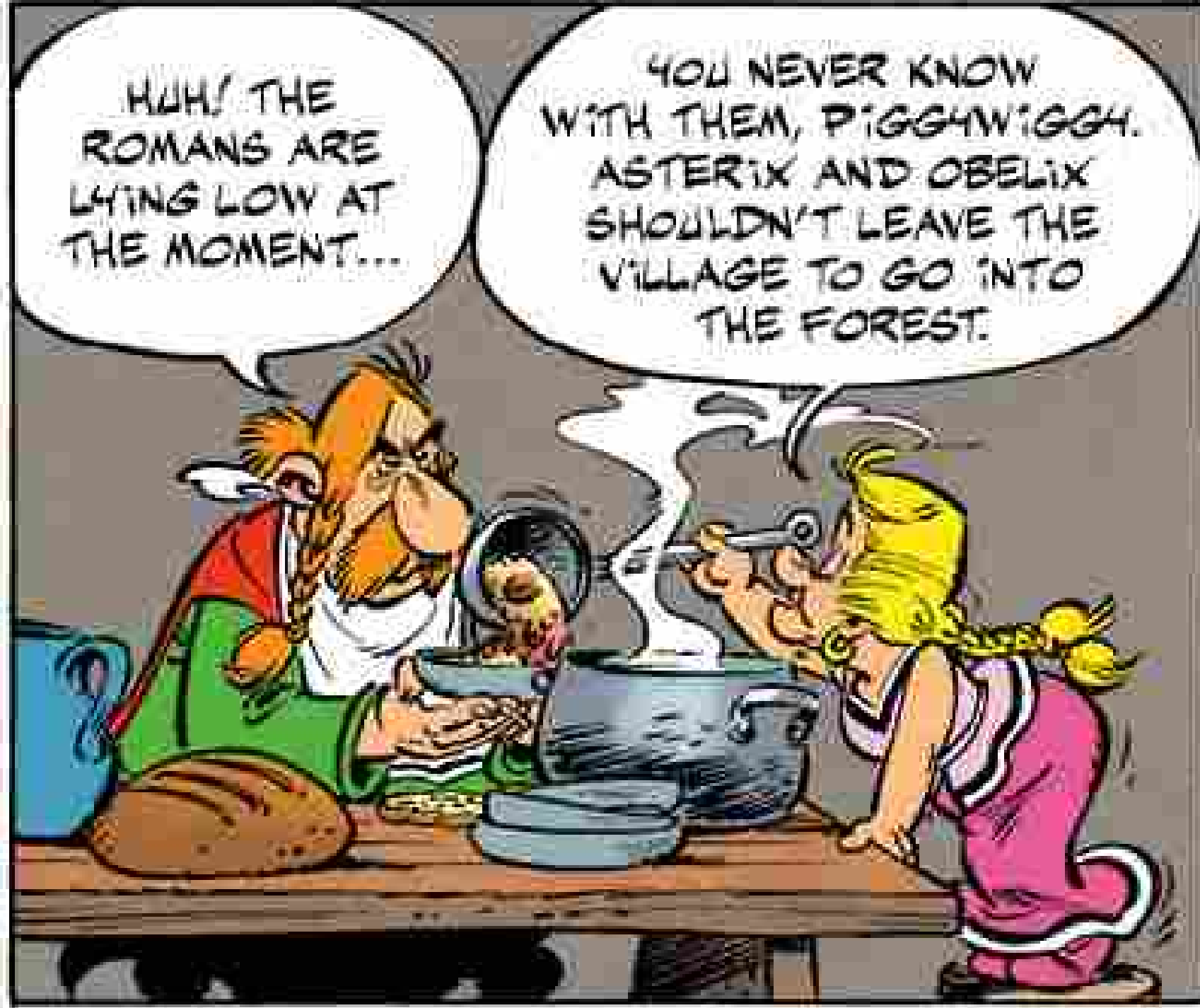
ANYWAY, IT WOULDN'T HAPPEN IF THEY WERE FRESH.













O SOOTHSAYER, I'VE BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING TO READ ABOUT MY FUTURE IN LUTETIA...



HOW SILLY OF ME! THIS GOOSE IS STUFFED! IT HASN'T GOT ANY ENTRAILS!

IT DOESN'T MATTER, I GET TIRED OF READING TRIPE...



YOU WILL HAVE BEAUTIFUL CLOTHES, THE FINEST HOUSE IN TOWN, AND YOU'LL MIX WITH THE CREAM OF SOCIETY...



SOME TIME LATER...

TRA LA LA LA!
TRA LA LA LA!



WHATEVER ARE YOU DOING HERE, IMPEDIMENTA?

ER... UM... I WAS PICKING MUSHROOMS.



YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE HAD MUCH LUCK... WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO HELP YOU?



OH, MYOPIA! I'VE JUST BEEN CONSULTING THE SOOTHSAYER WHO IS CAMPING IN THE FOREST OVER THERE. BUT PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE!

IS INVOCATION TO GALLIEN GODDESS, ACKNOWLEDGING SHORT SIGHTEDNESS



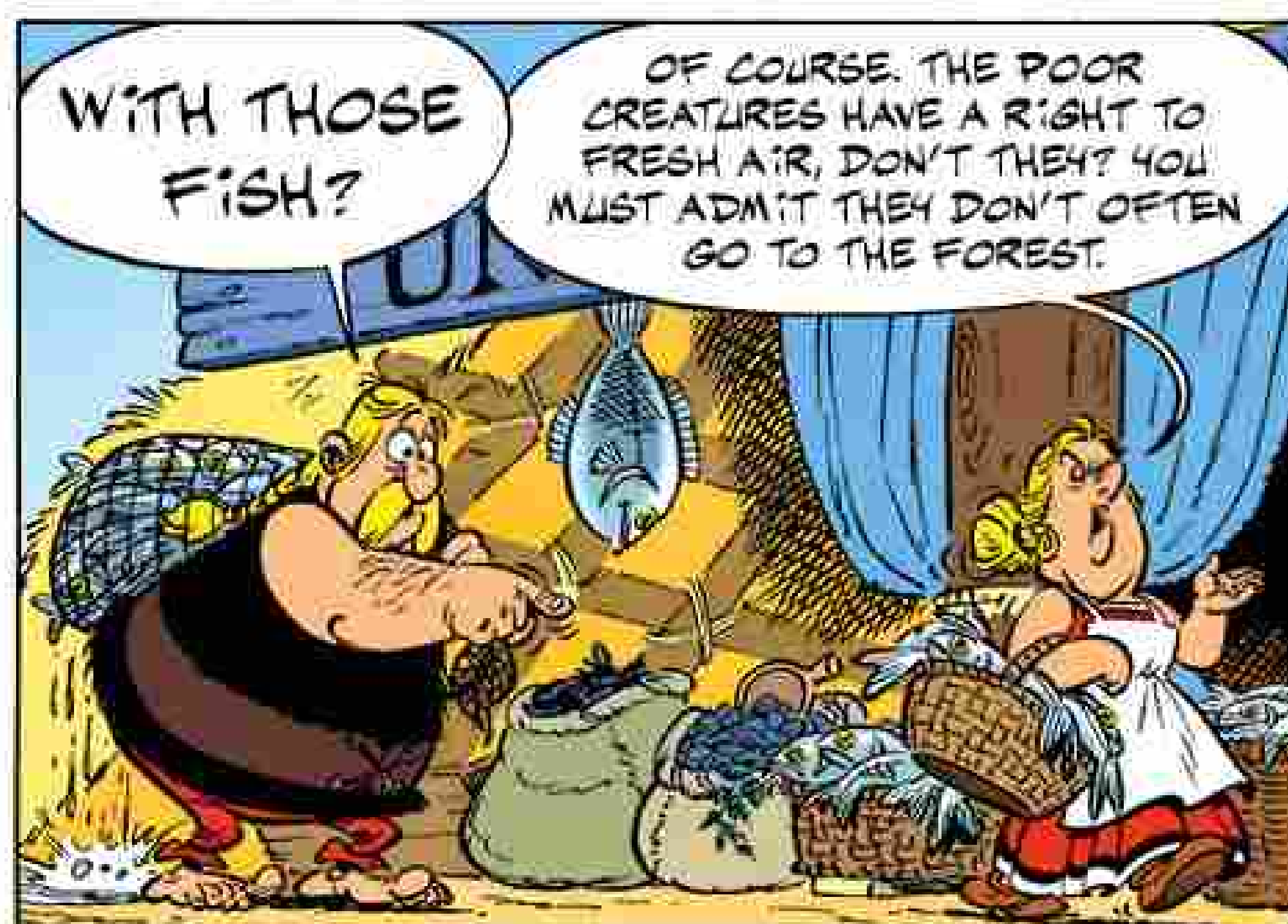
LATER STILL...

...AND DON'T TELL ANYONE, BUT HE TOLD ME THAT GERIATRIX WOULD BECOME VERY RICH, AND I'D HAVE HEAPS OF JEWELS...



WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO?

ER... FOR A WALK IN THE FOREST.

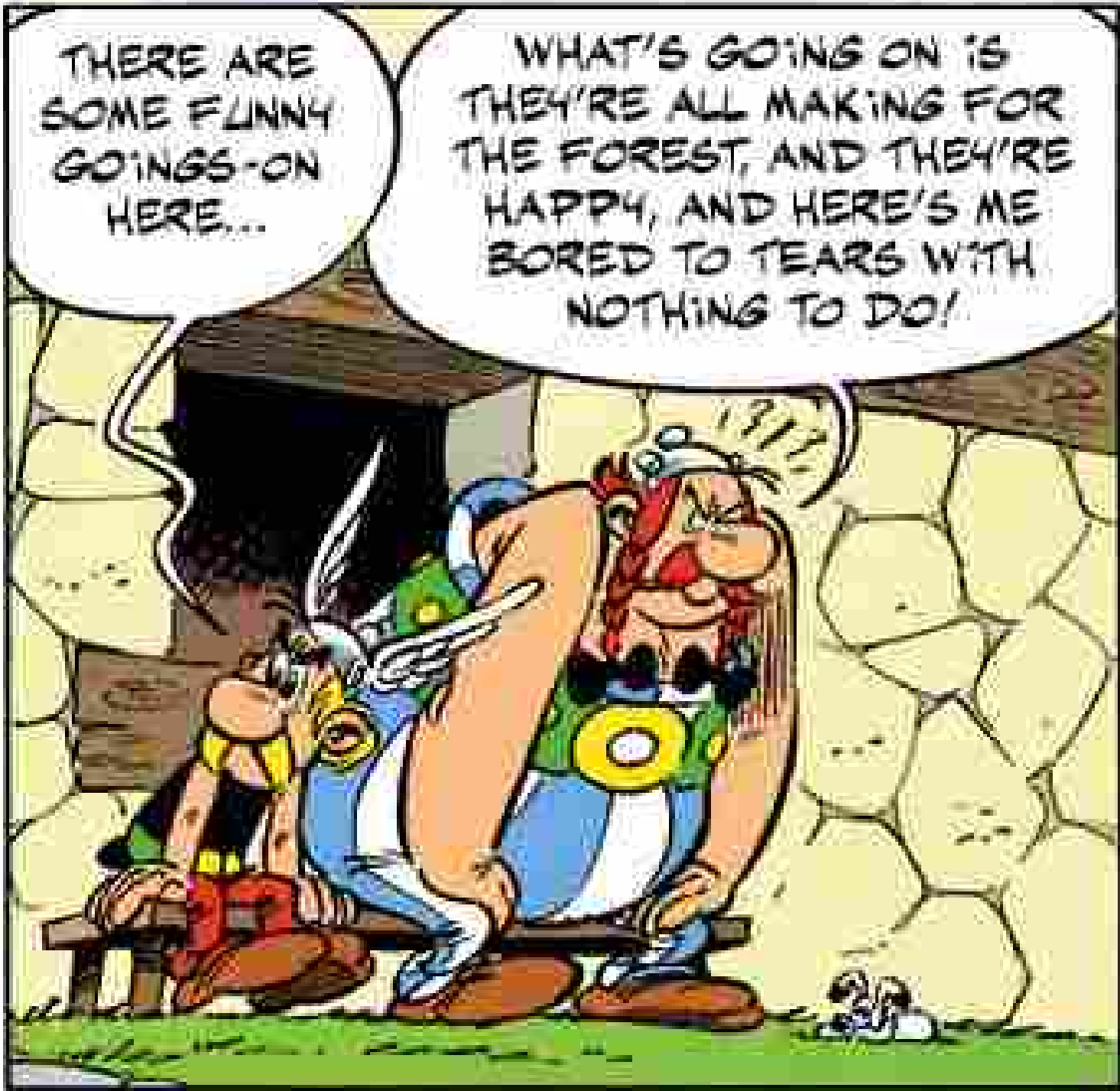


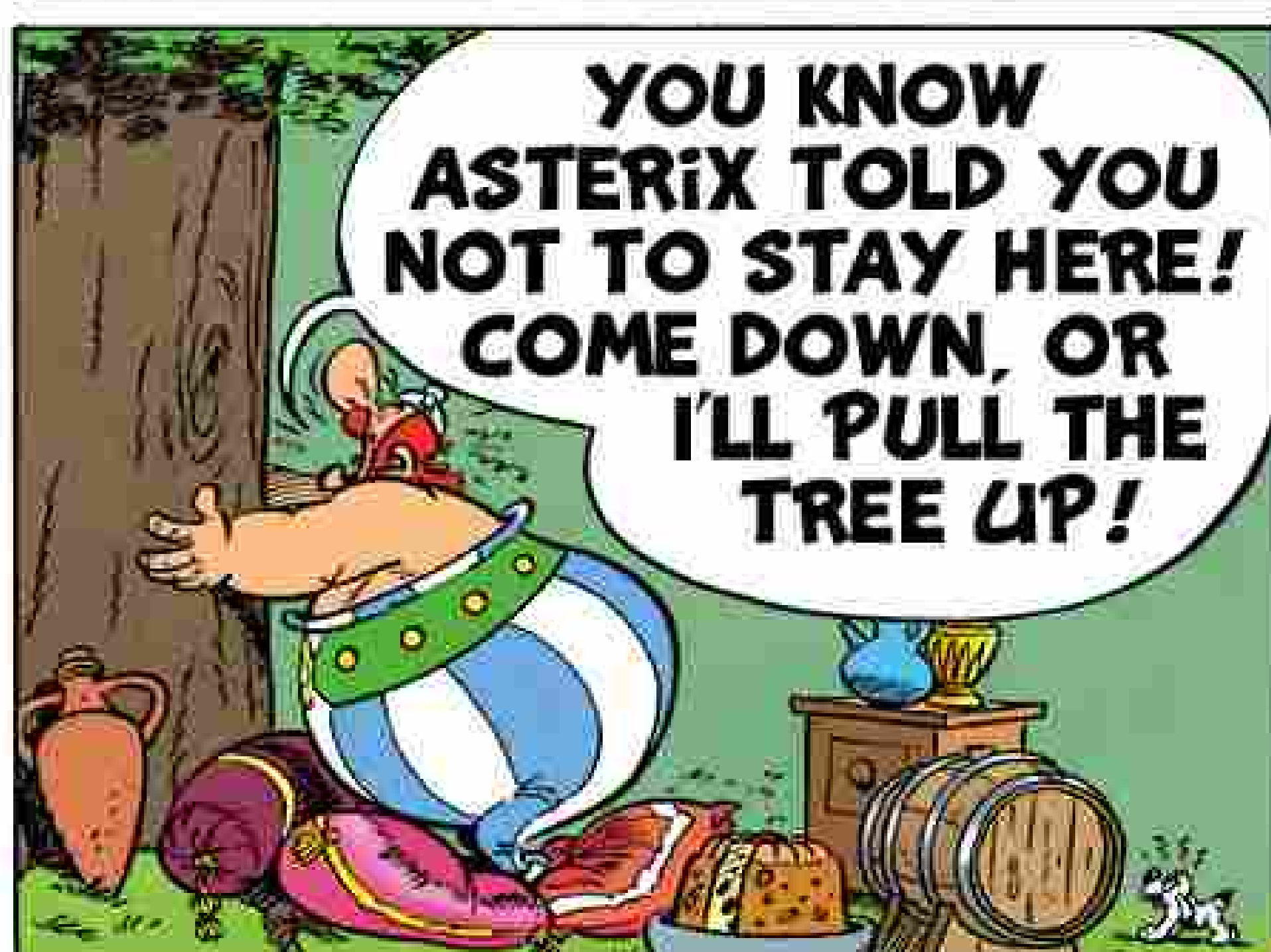
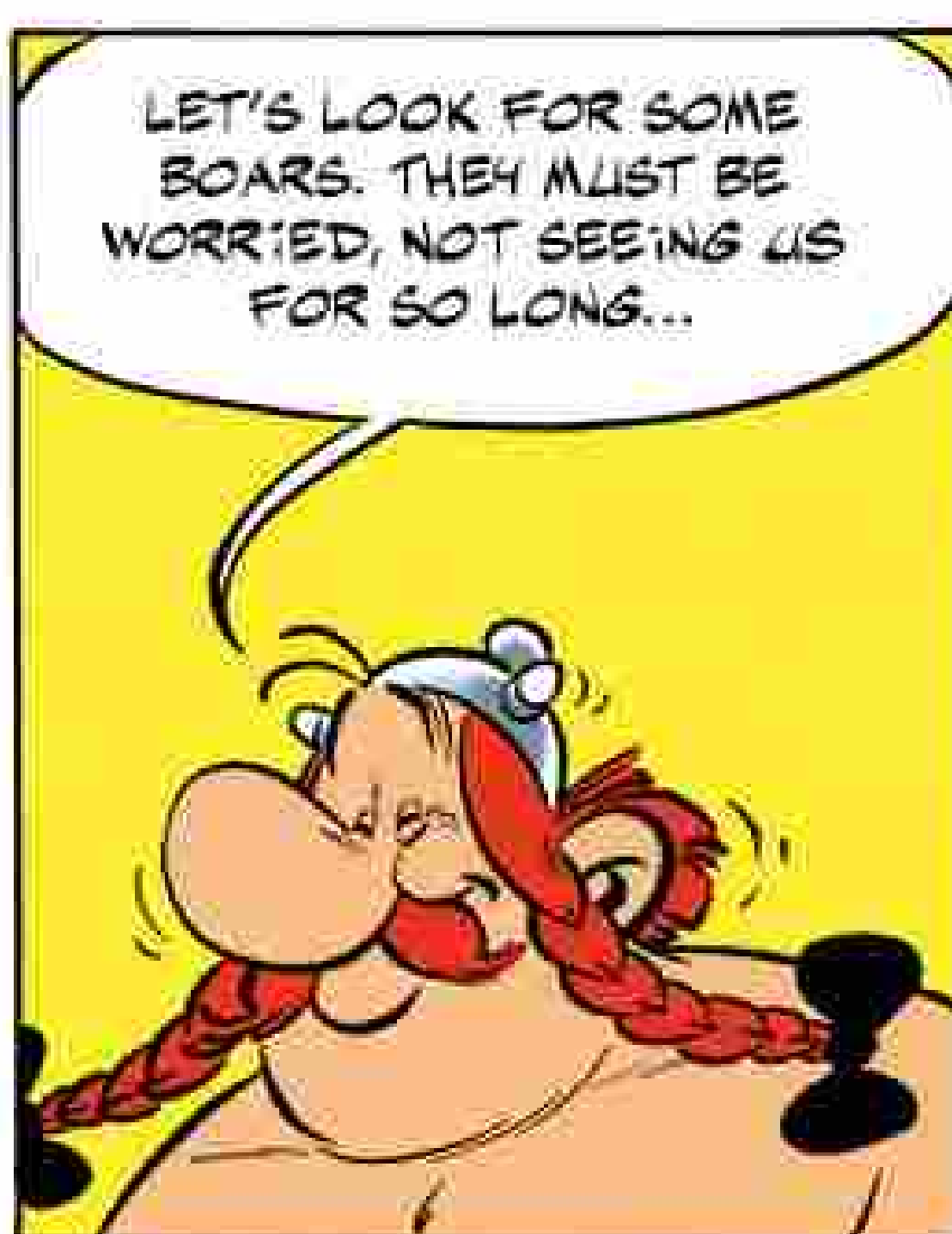
WITH THOSE FISH?

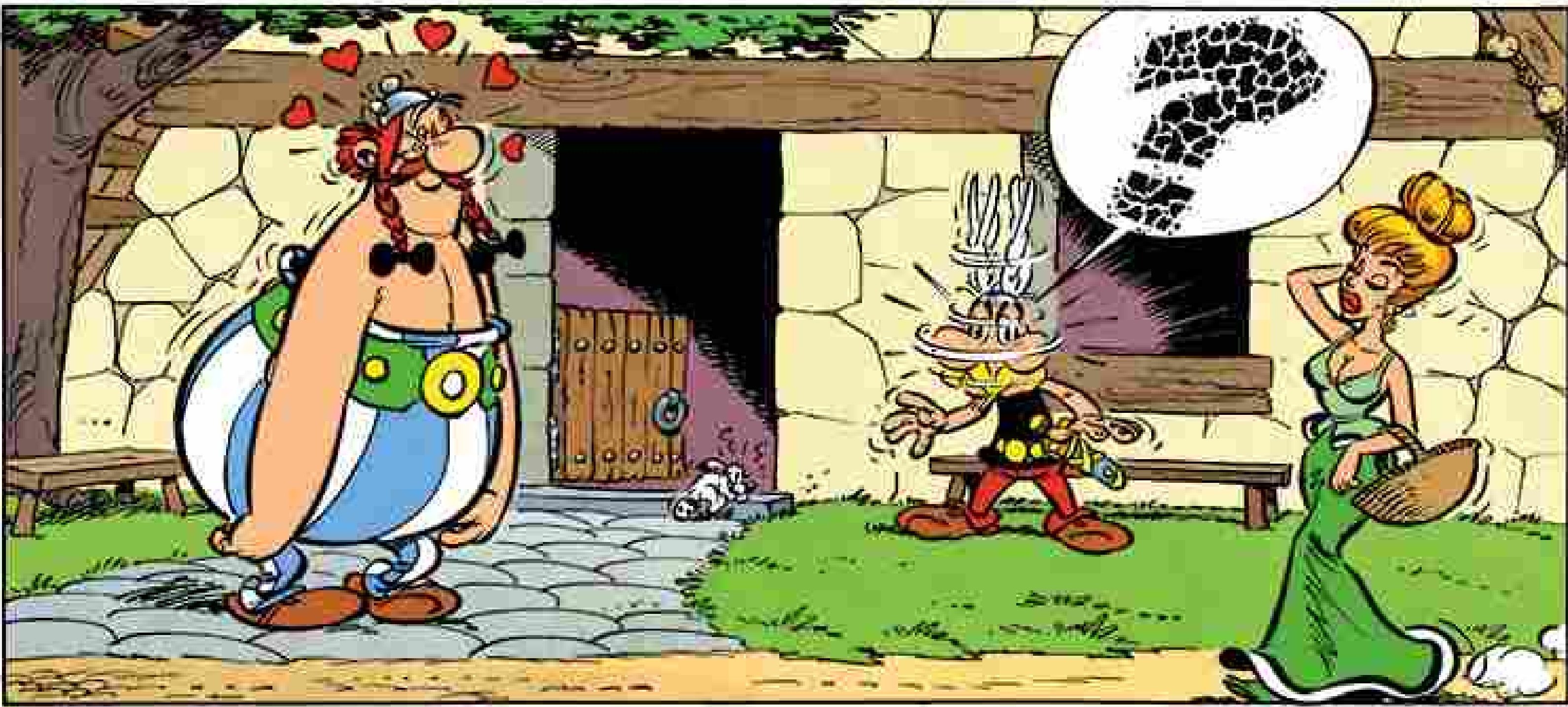
OF COURSE. THE POOR CREATURES HAVE A RIGHT TO FRESH AIR, DON'T THEY? YOU MUST ADMIT THEY DON'T OFTEN GO TO THE FOREST.

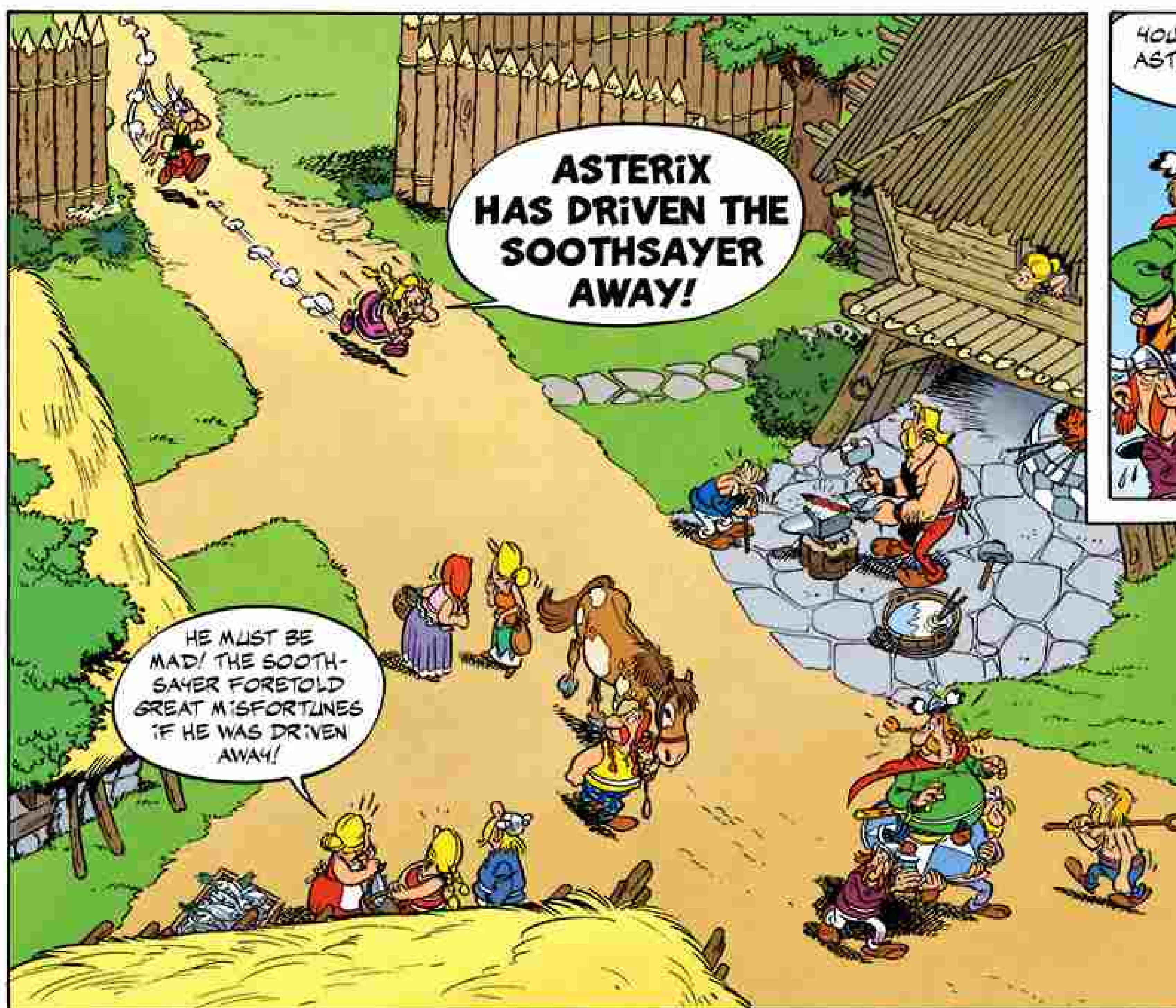
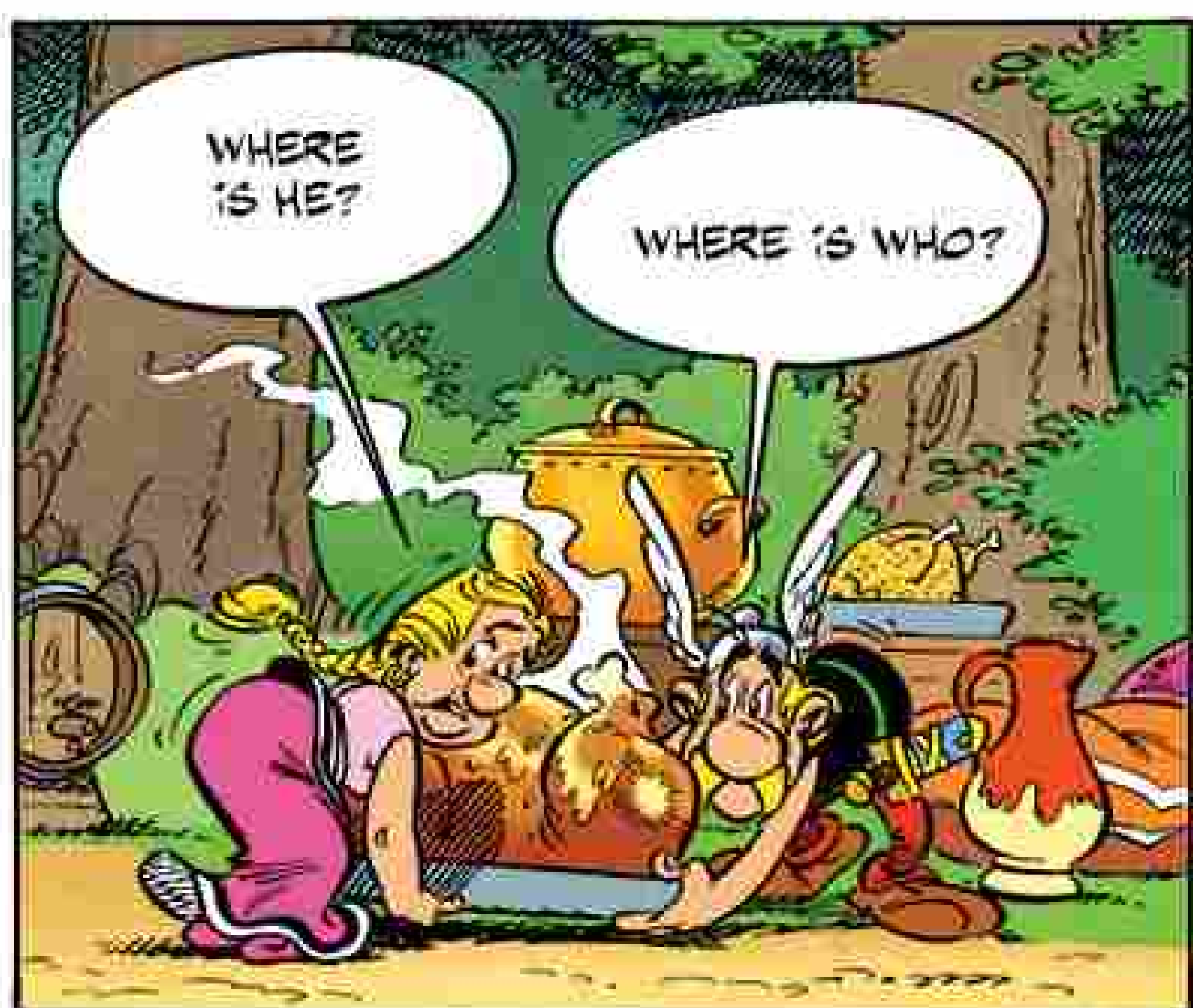


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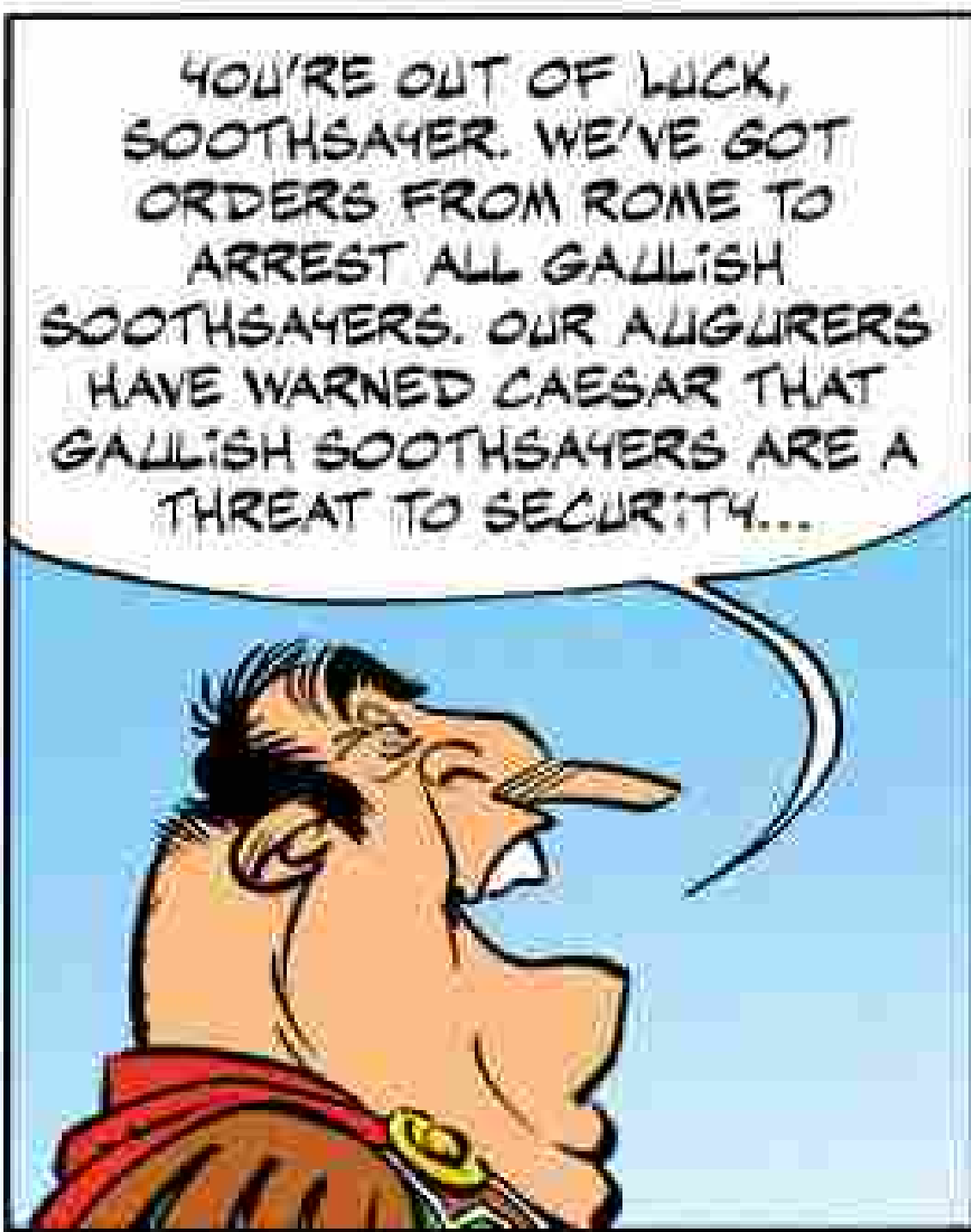


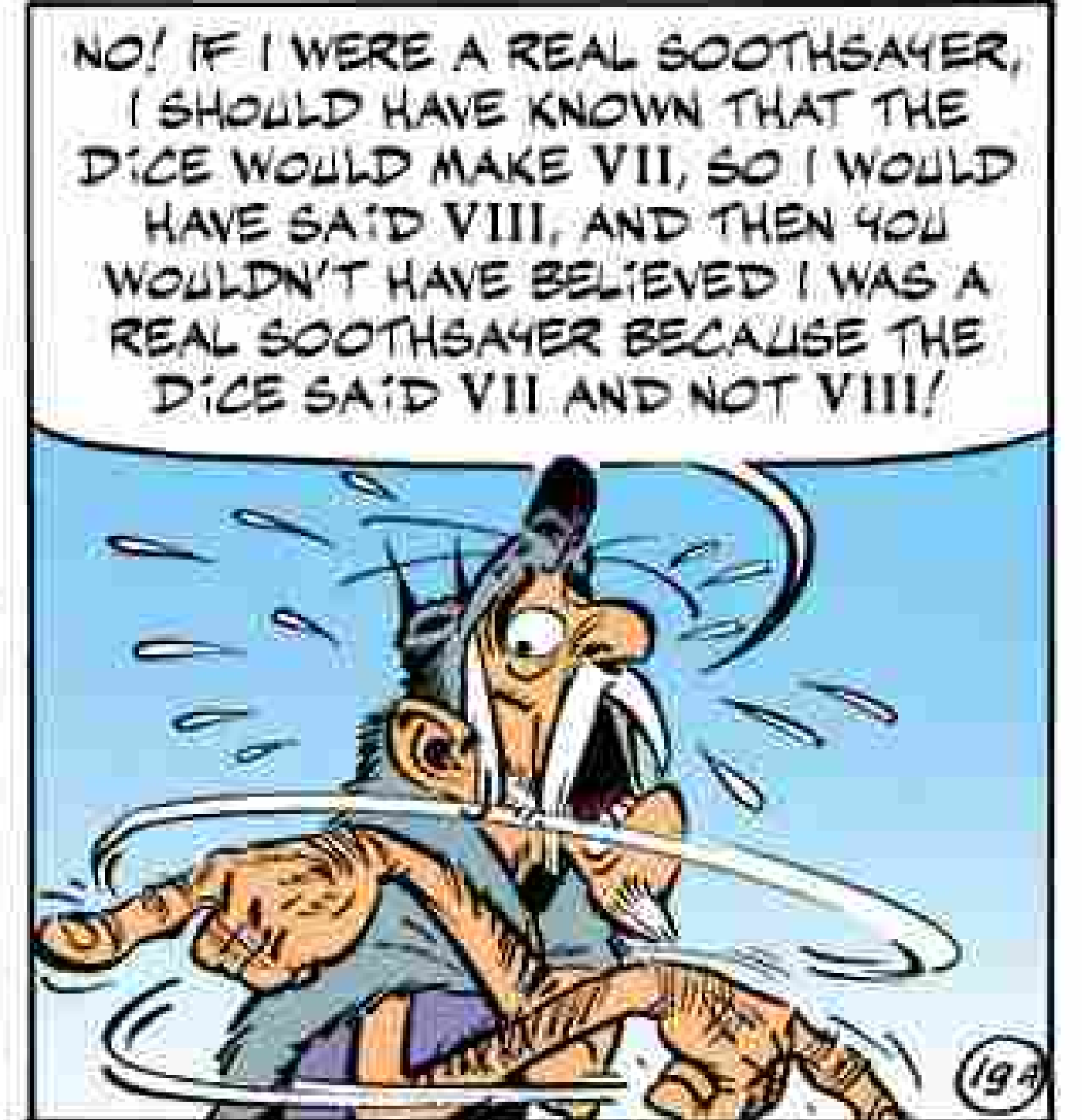
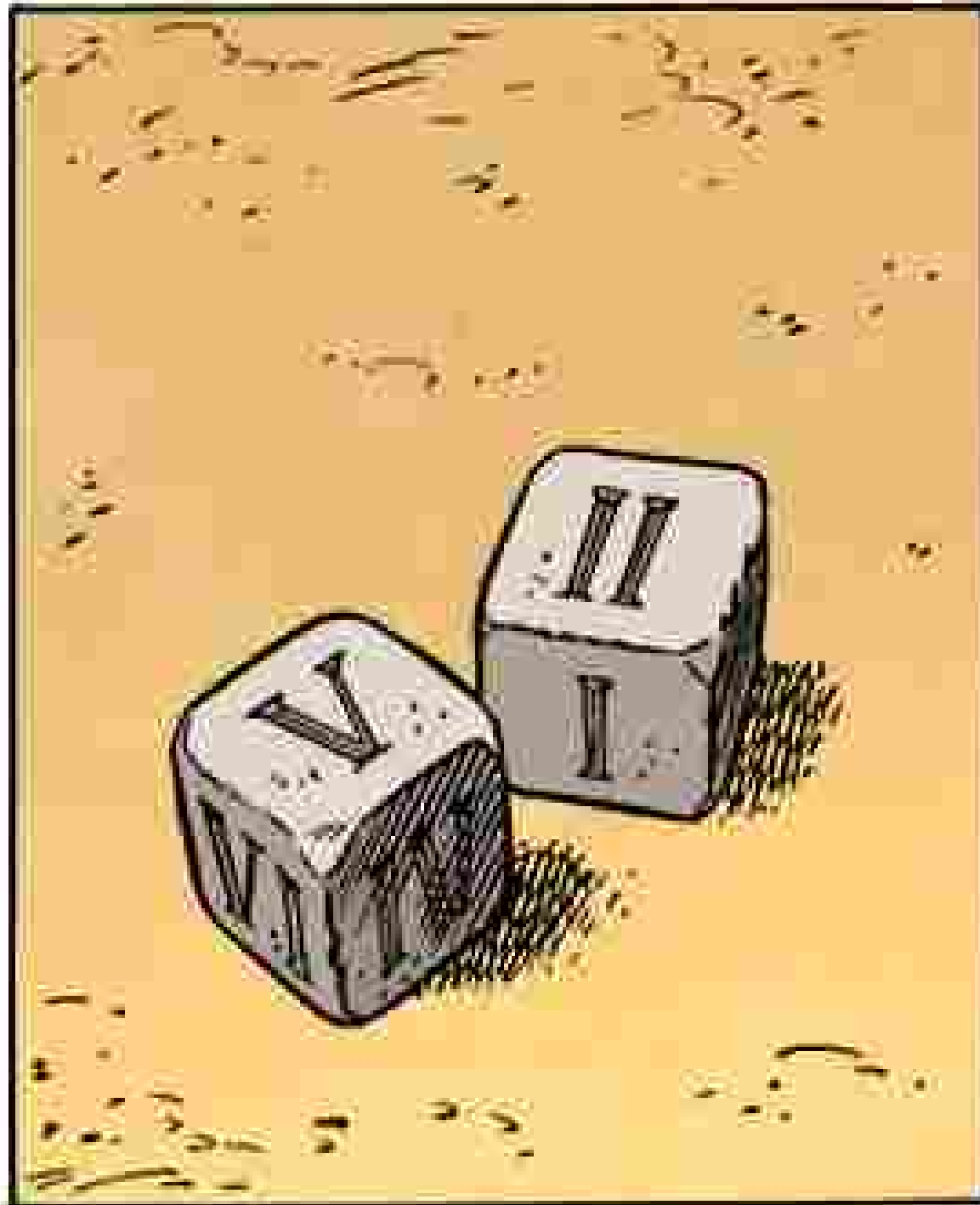
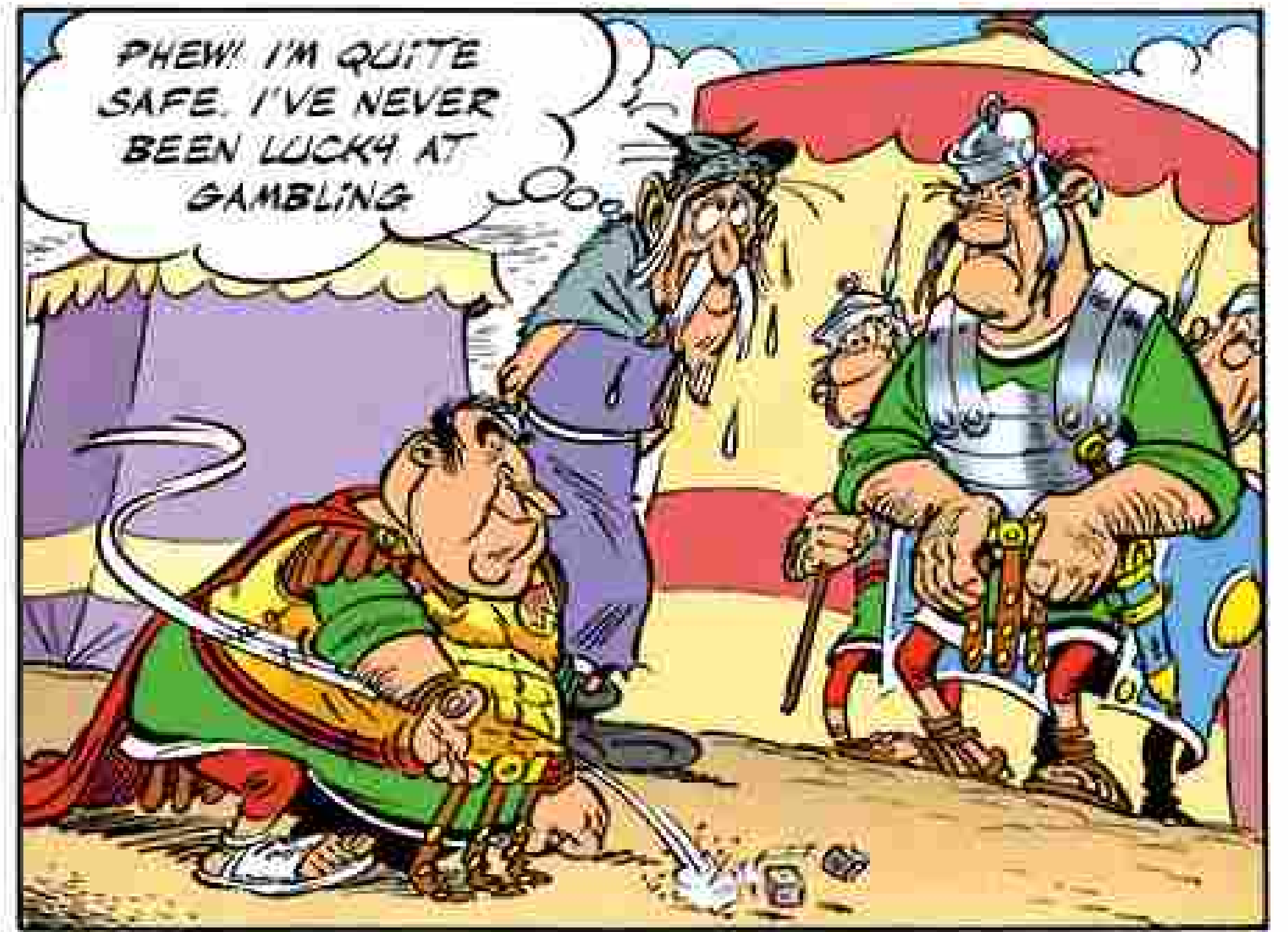


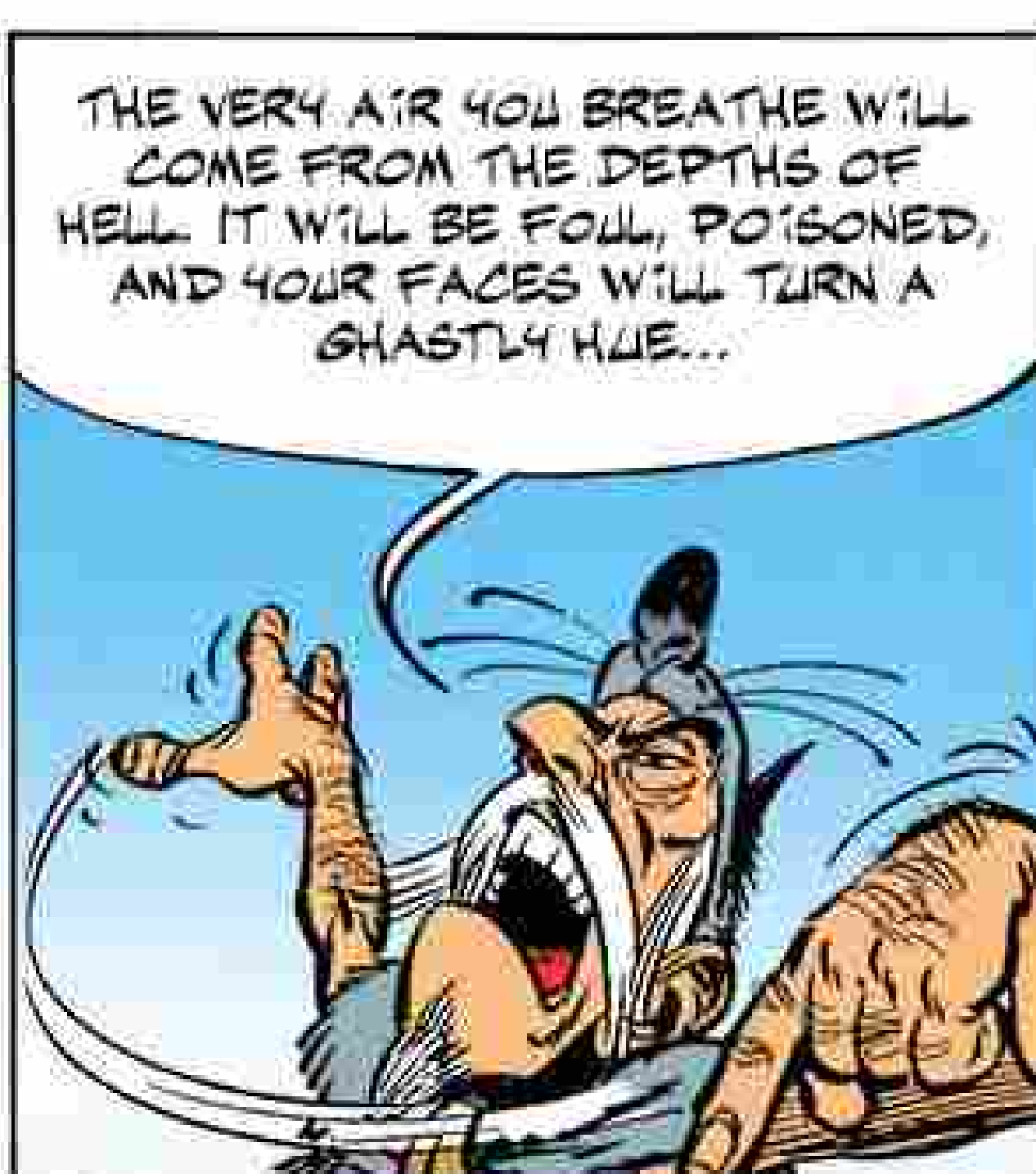
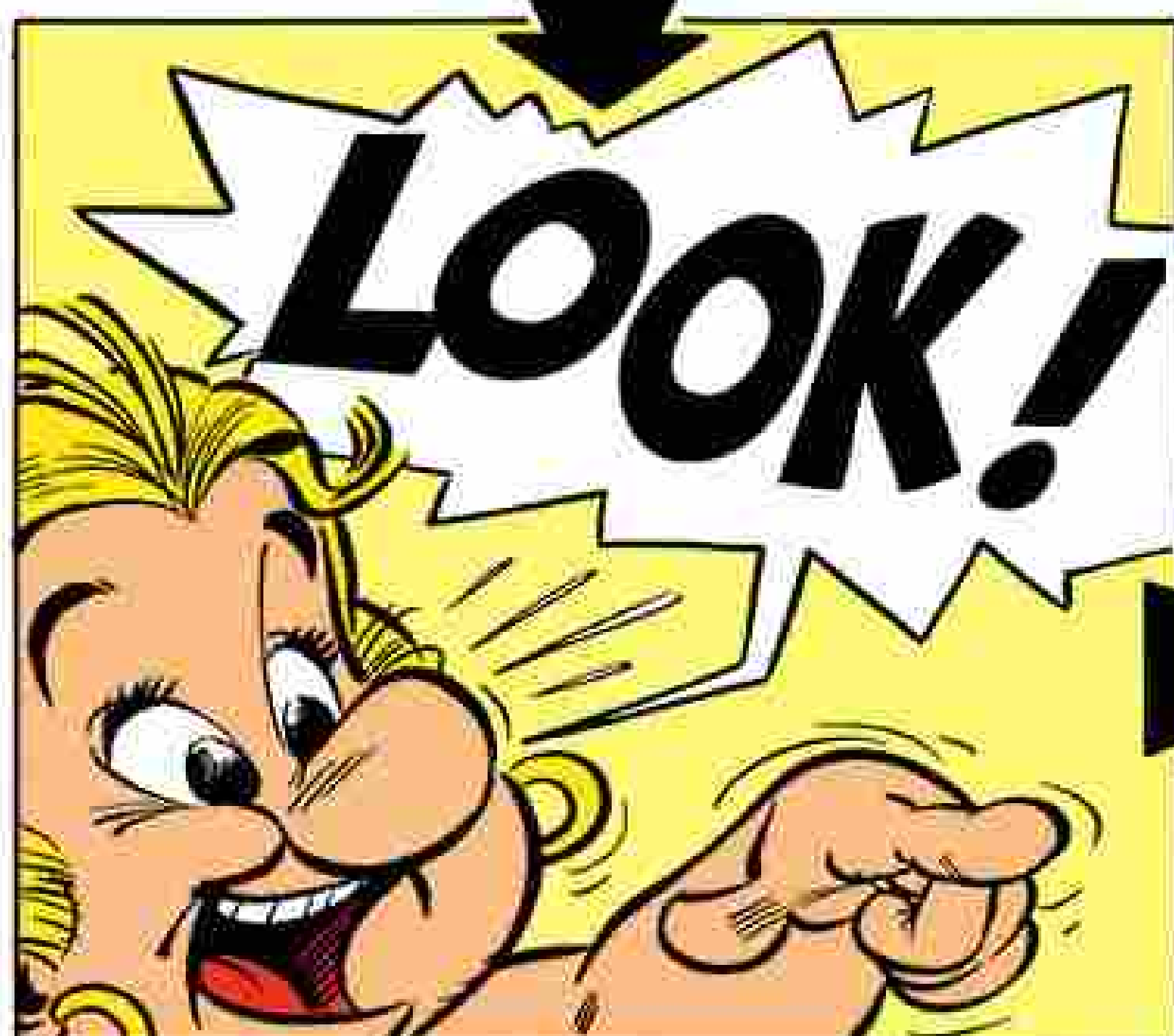
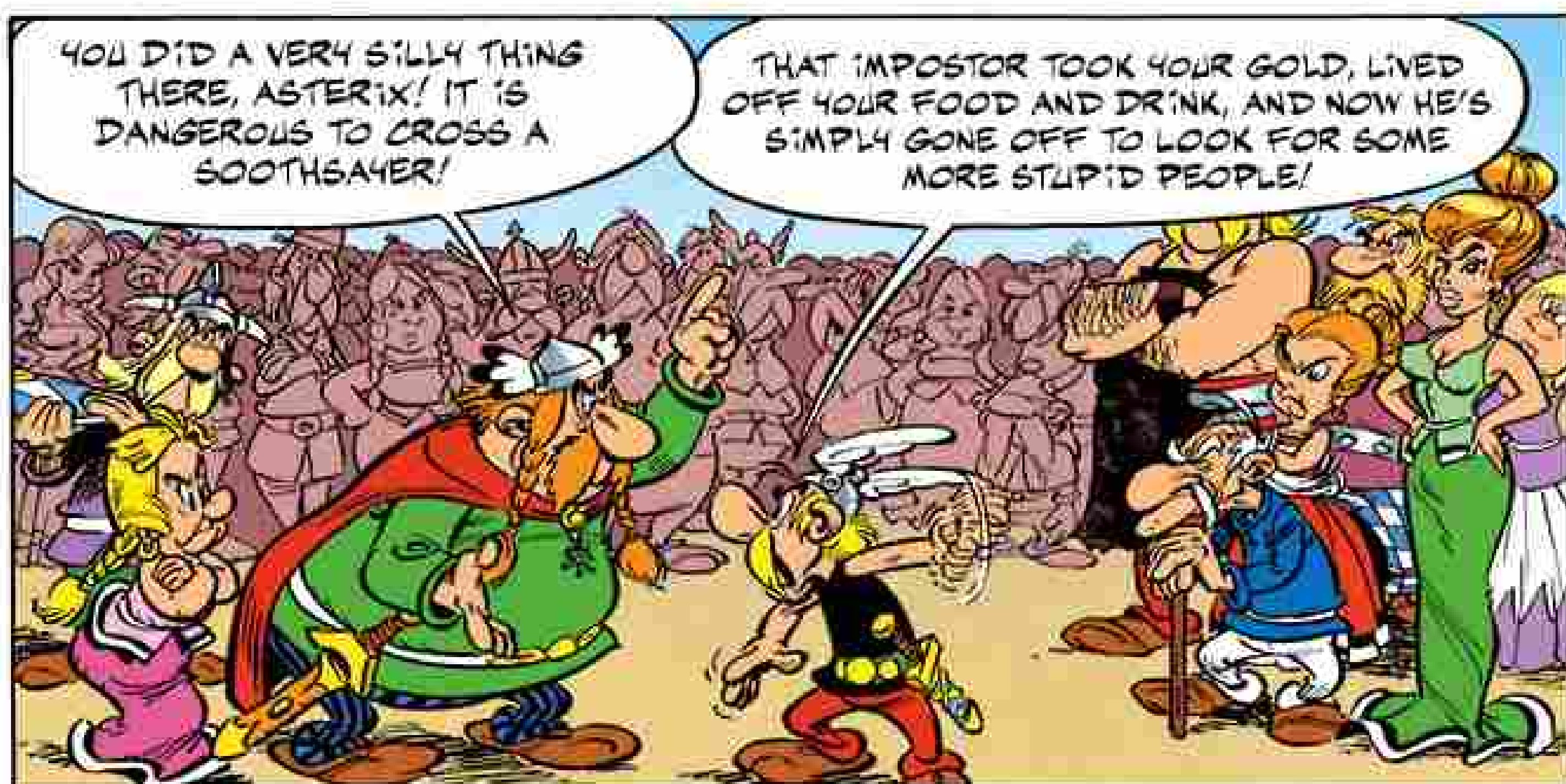
THE EXPLANATION IS TO BE FOUND AT THIS VERY MOMENT, IN THE FORTIFIED ROMAN CAMP OF COMPENDIUM...

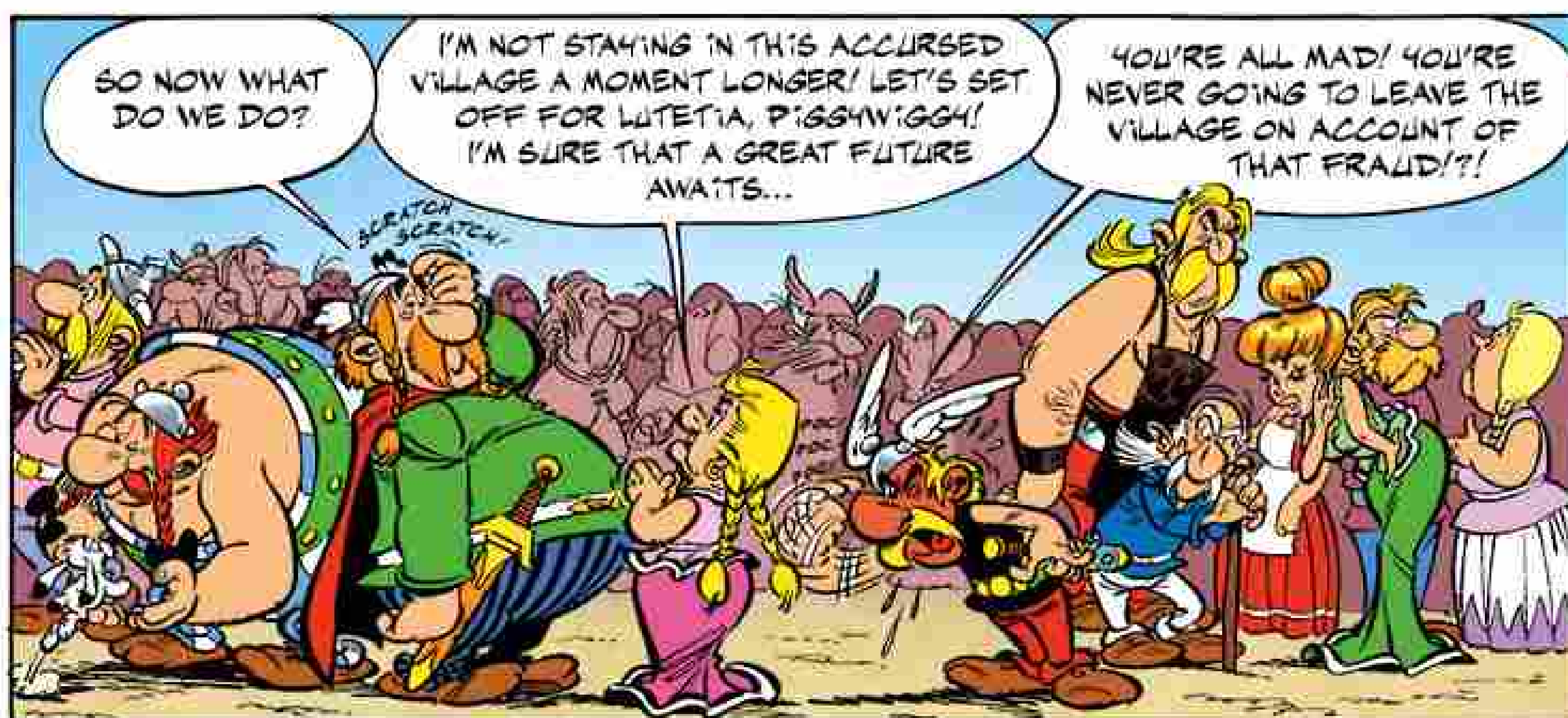


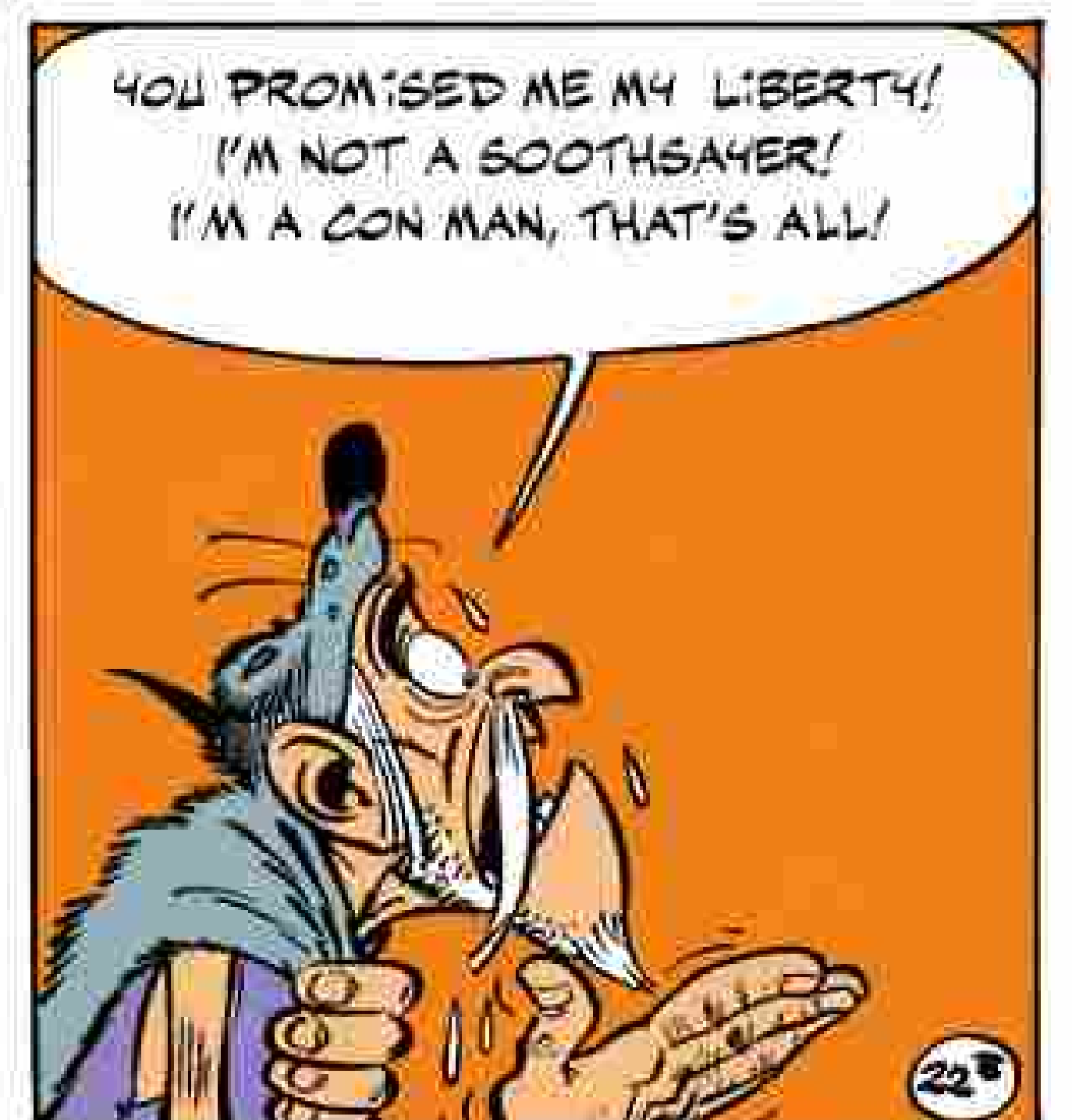
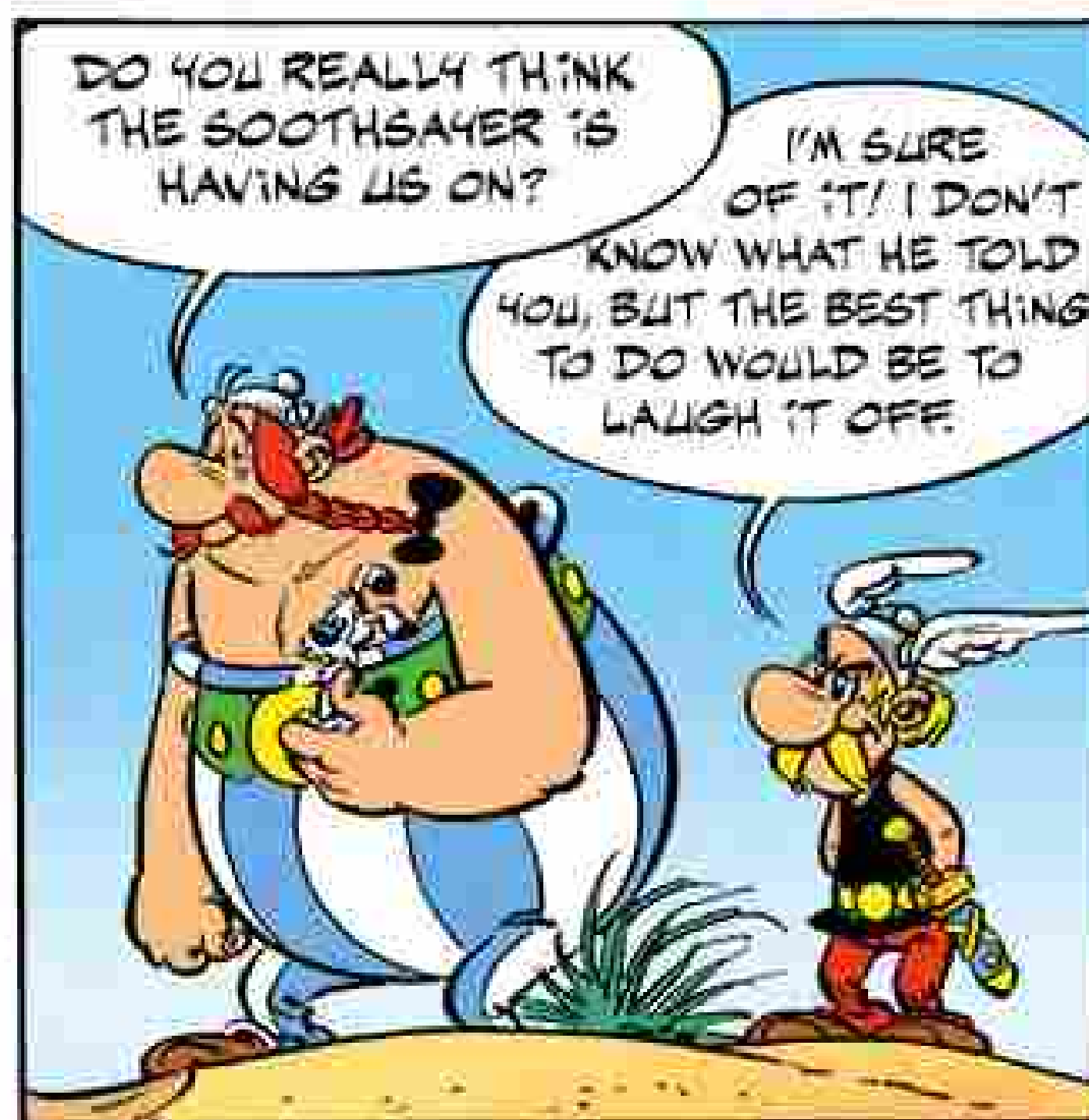
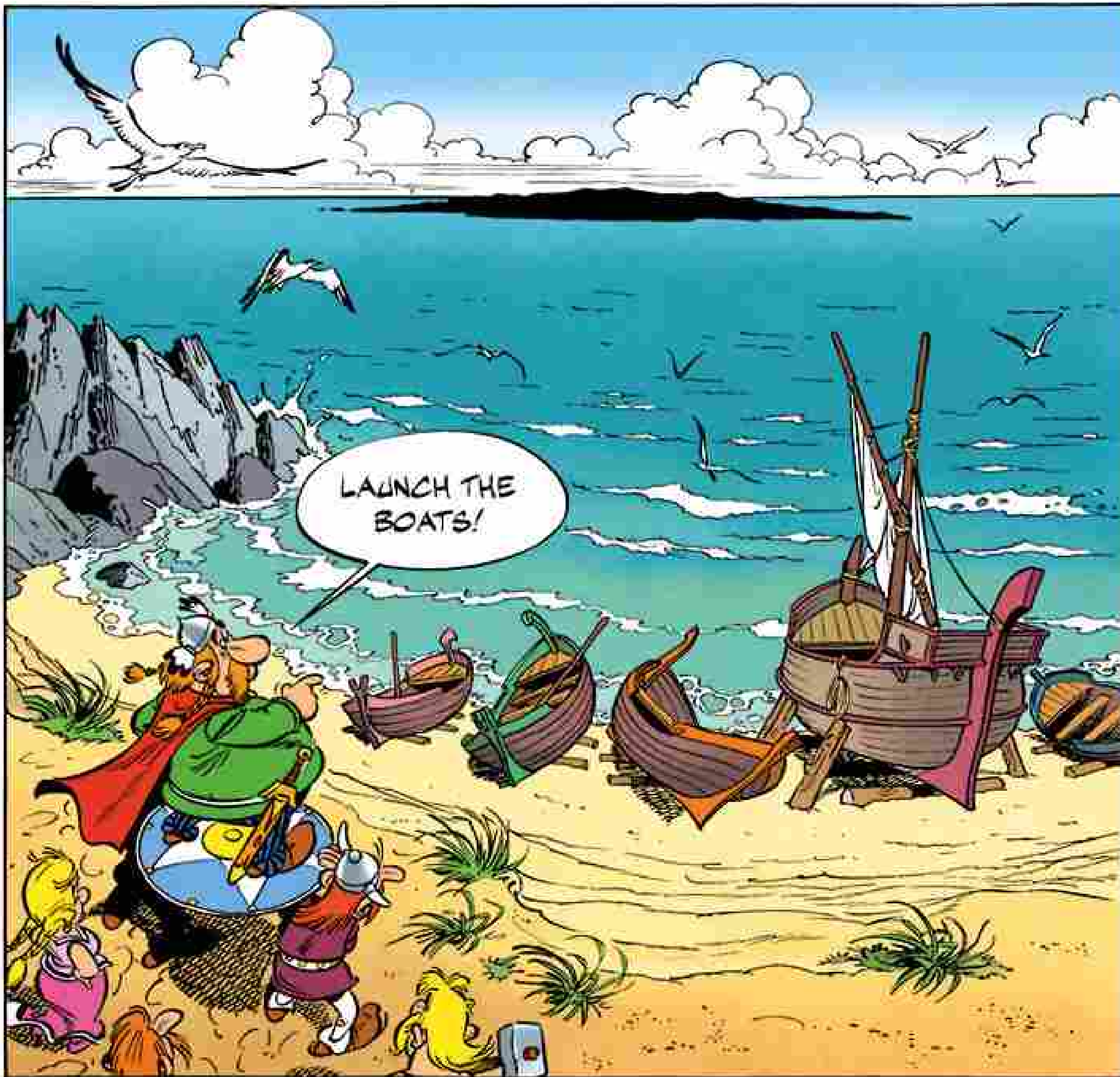
ON PROCEEDING ON PATROL, FOR WHICH YOU GAVE THE ORDERS TO PROCEED WITH, WE FOUND THIS 'ERE INDIVIDUAL IN A CLEARING, AND AFTER A CAUTION HE MADE A STATEMENT WHAT WE WERE NOT VERY SATISFIED WITH.







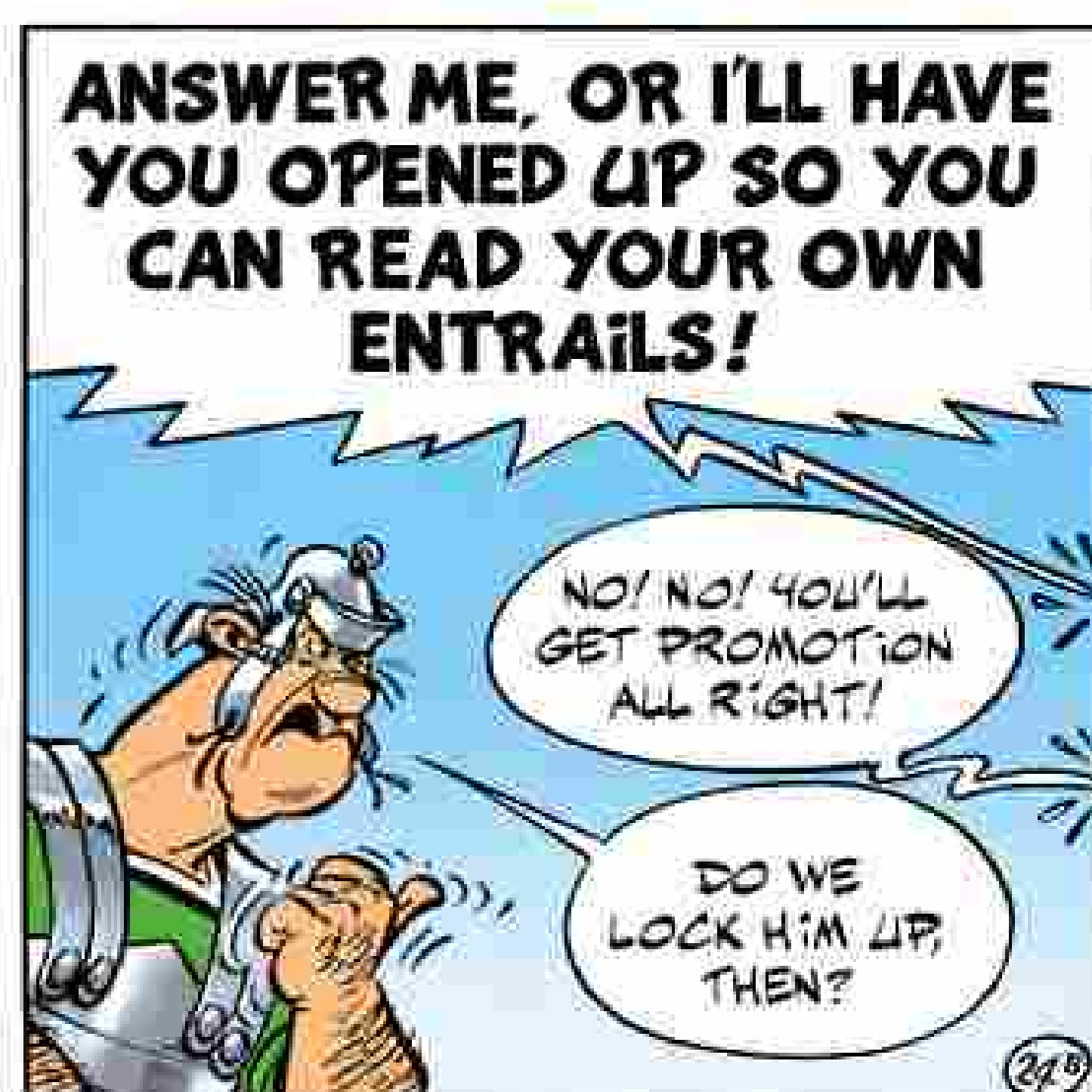
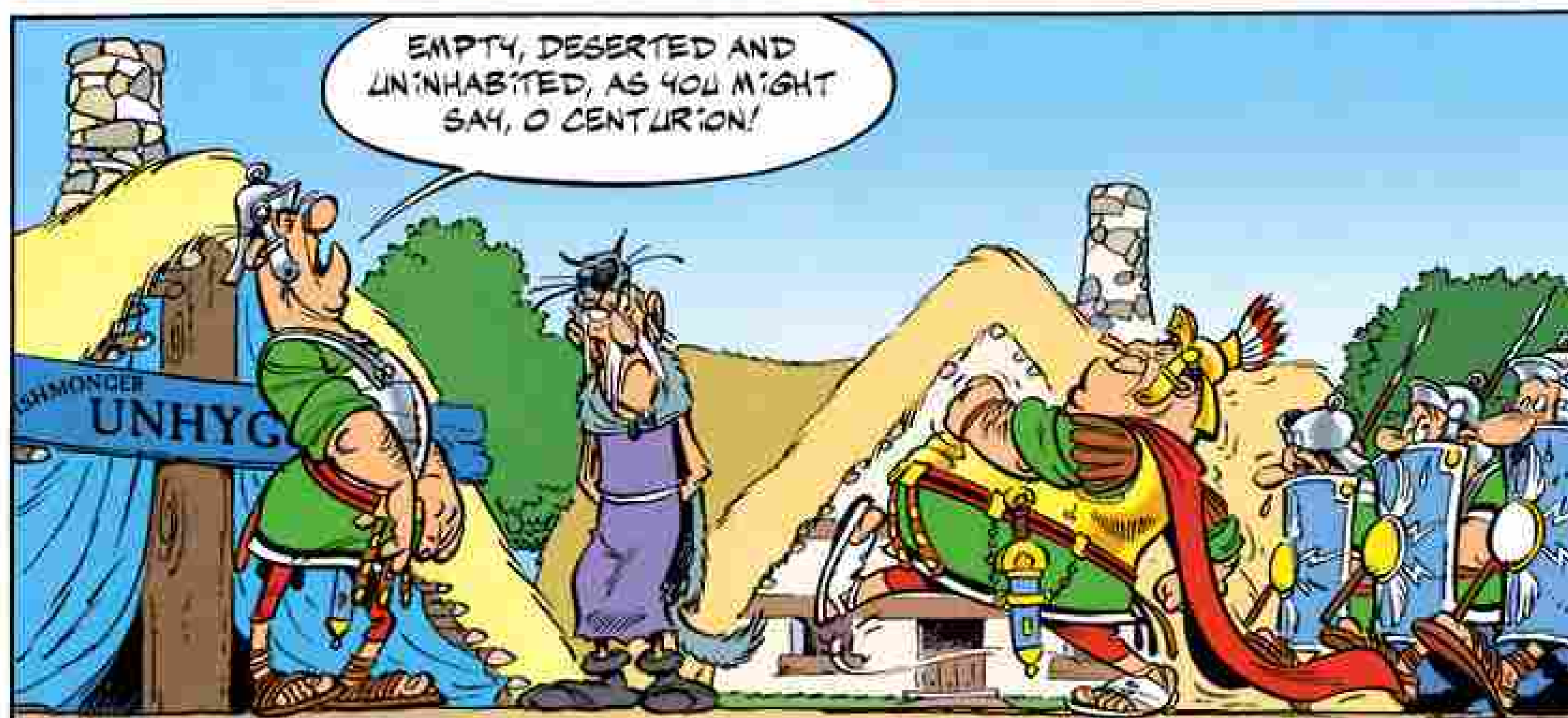


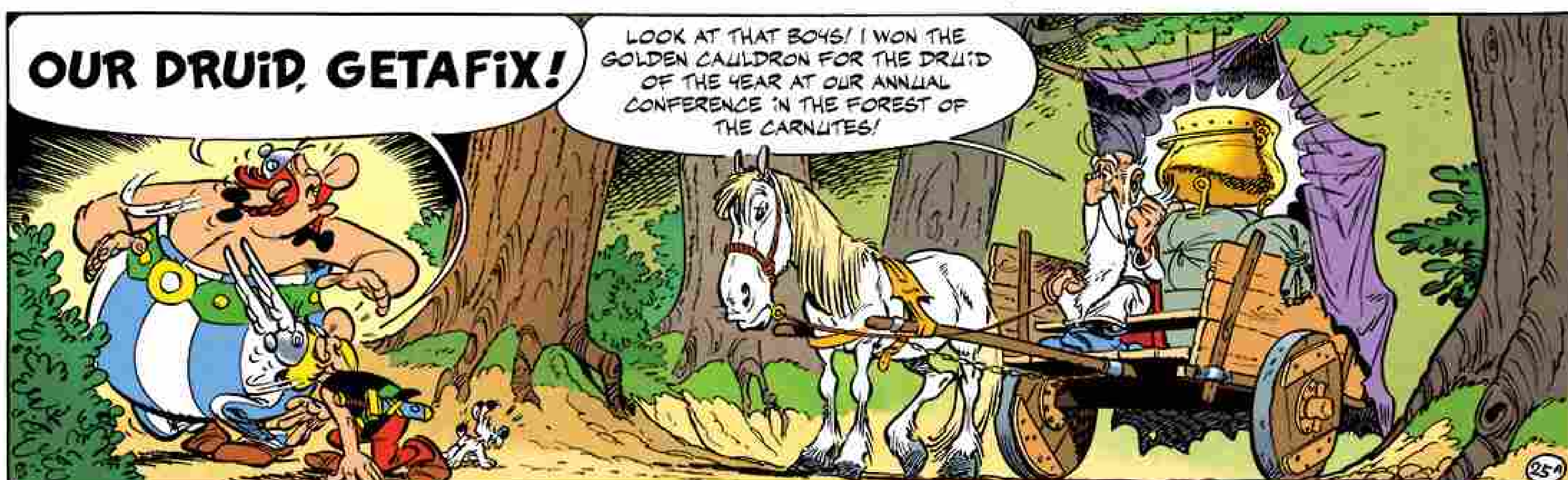




I CAN'T MAKE ANY GENUINE PREDICTIONS! IF I COULD HAVE FORESEEN HOW THIS WAS GOING TO TURN OUT I'D HAVE STAYED AT HOME NEXT DOOR TO THAT TANNERY!

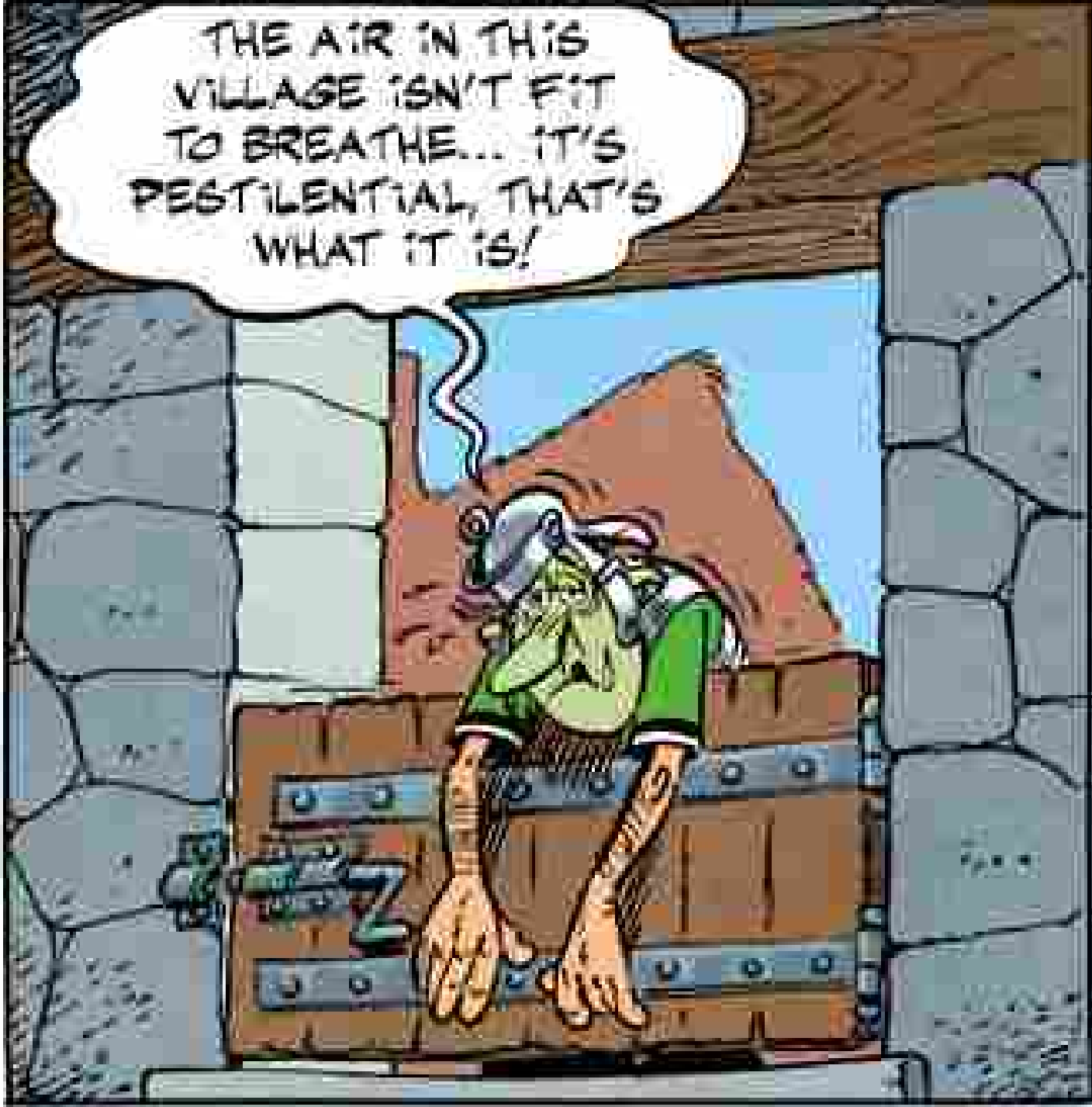


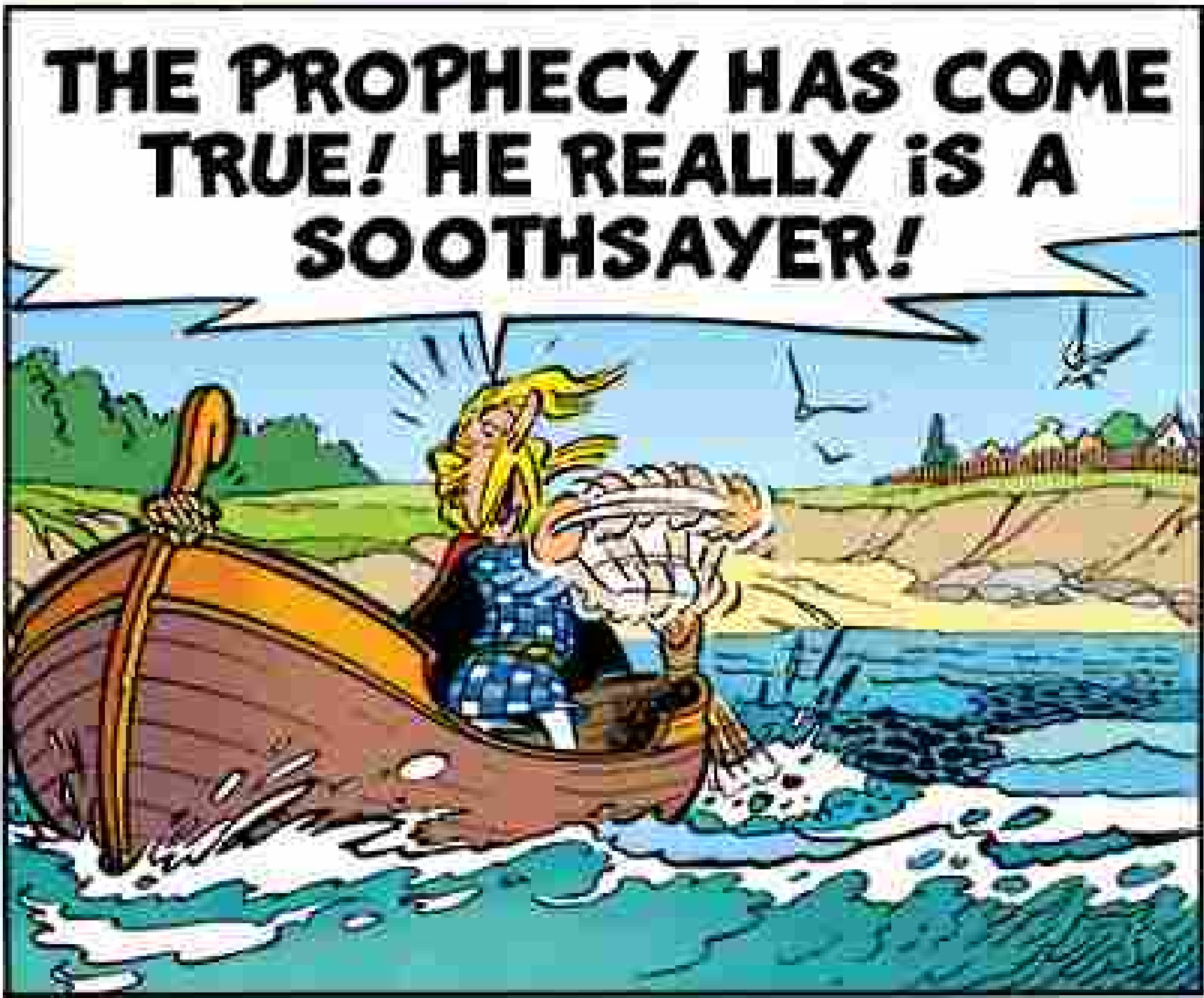
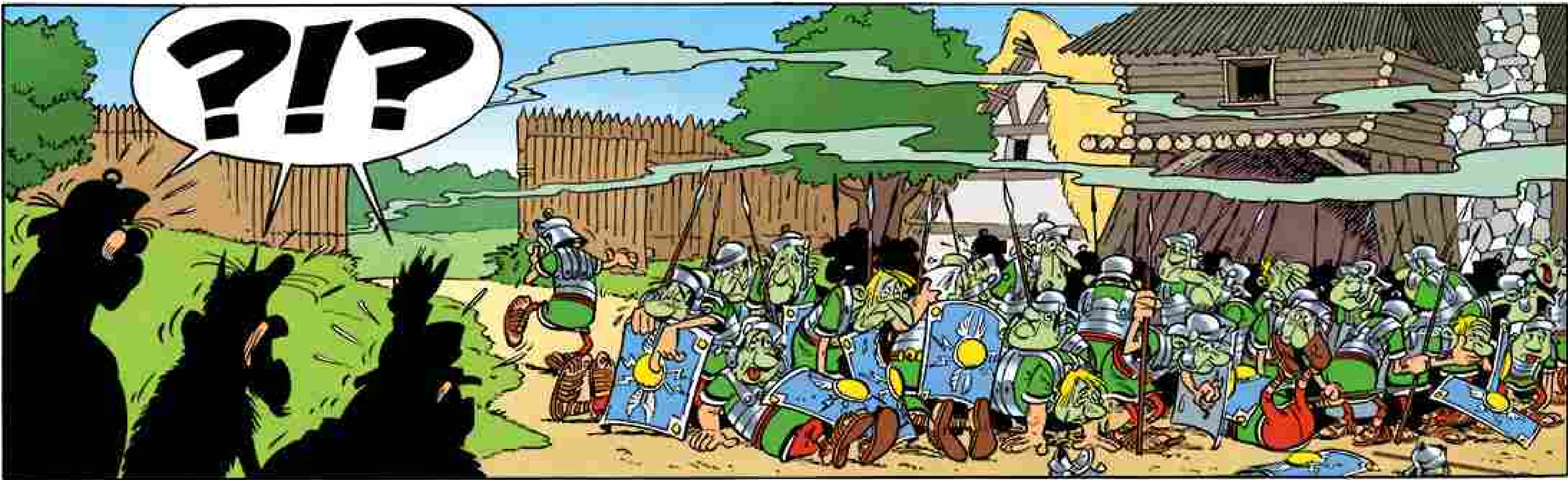






TARANIS, THE GOD OF STORMS AND THUNDER, IS IN MELLOW MOOD AND SENDS A GENTLE BREEZE, WAFTING THROUGH THE AIR A SMELL WHICH WAS STILL UNFAMILIAR IN THE YEAR 50 BC...







I FORGOT MY LYRE, SO I WENT BACK TO THE VILLAGE TO GET IT, AND I FOUND MYSELF BREATHING FOUL AIR... AIR FROM THE DEPTHS OF HELL! EVEN THE ROMANS HAD TO RUN FOR IT!

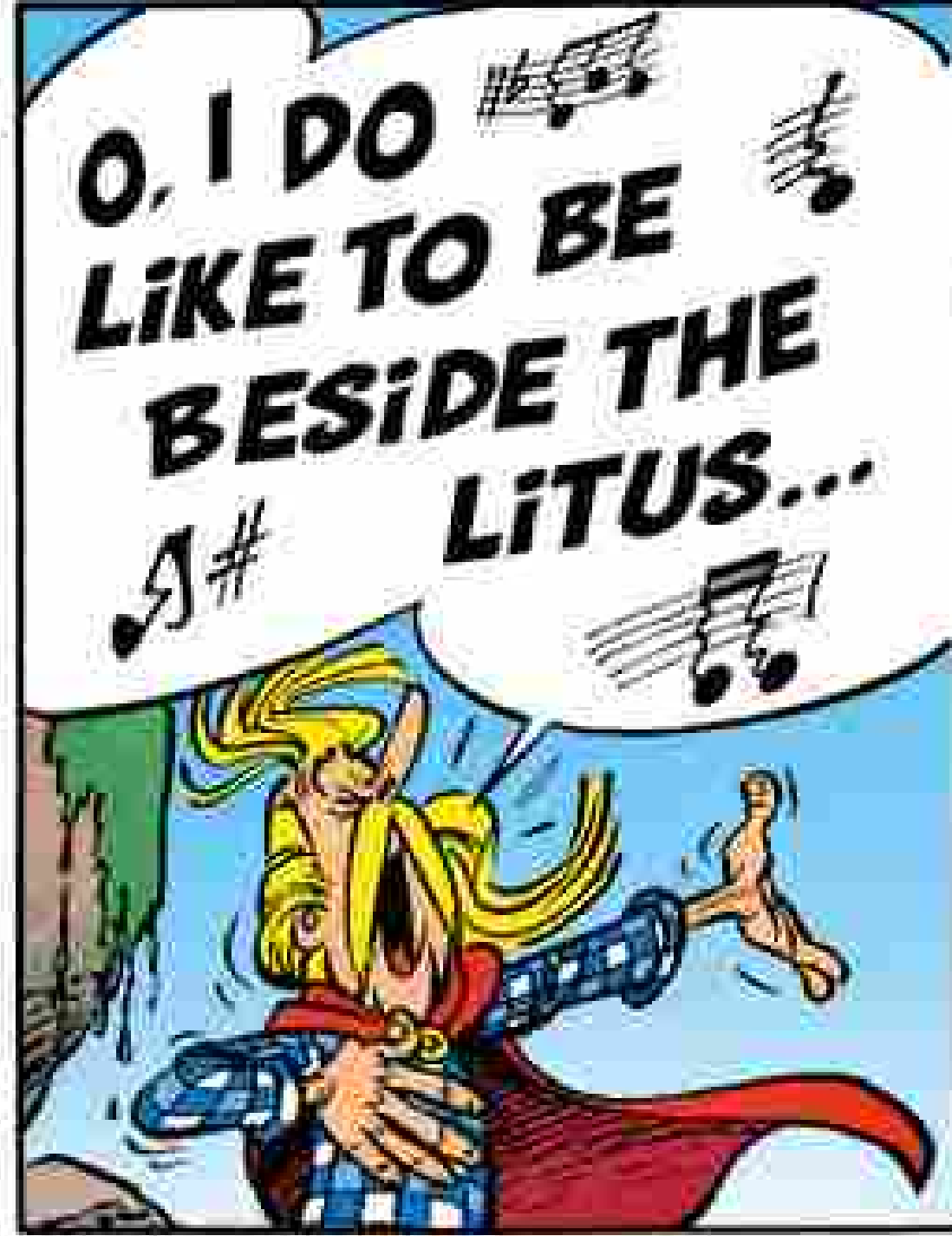


YOU SEE? YOU SEE? WE SHOULD HAVE GONE TO LUTETIA, LIKE THE SOOTH-SAYER SAID! YOU STUPID GREAT BOAR!

DARLING... AREN'T I YOUR PIGGYWIGGH ANY MORE?



WELL, I'LL JUST HAVE TO DO WITHOUT MY LYRE.



O, I DO LIKE TO BE BESIDE THE LITUS...



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ARE YOU CRAZY? COME BACK!

I'D RATHER BREATHE FOUL AIR THAN LISTEN TO THAT!

WHAT ARE YOU SINGING FOR, ANYWAY?

THE SOOTHSAYER TOLD ME VOICES LIKE MINE WERE GOING TO BE VERY POPULAR IN THE FUTURE. I'M PRACTISING.



WELL, ALL WE HAVE TO DO NOW IS WAIT FOR FRESH AIR TO DISPERSE THE BAD SMELL IN THE VILLAGE, AND THEN WE'LL GO AND LOOK FOR OUR FRIENDS...



AND AS FOR THE ROMANS, I'M COUNTING ON YOU. YOU'RE SURE TO THINK OF SOMETHING.

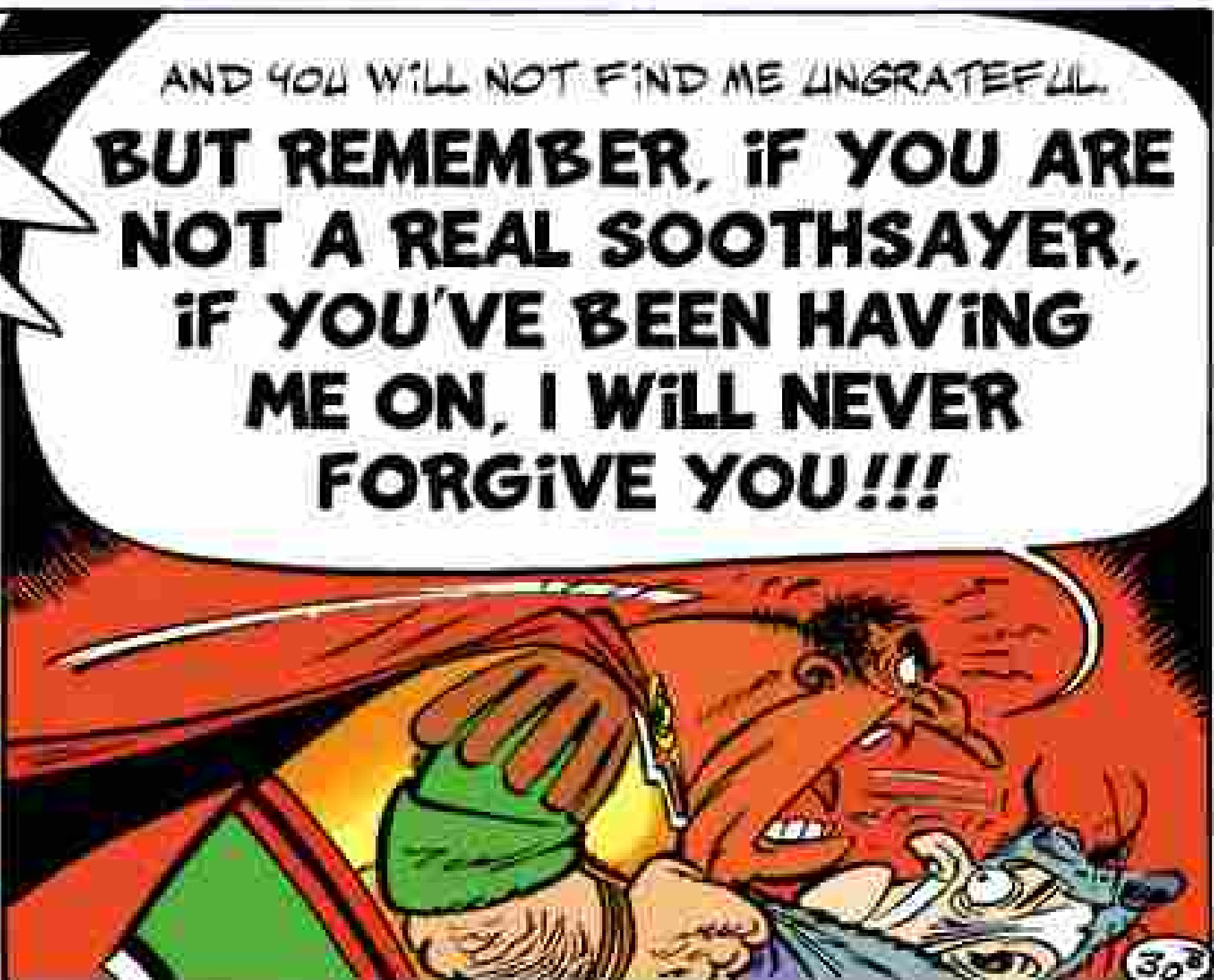
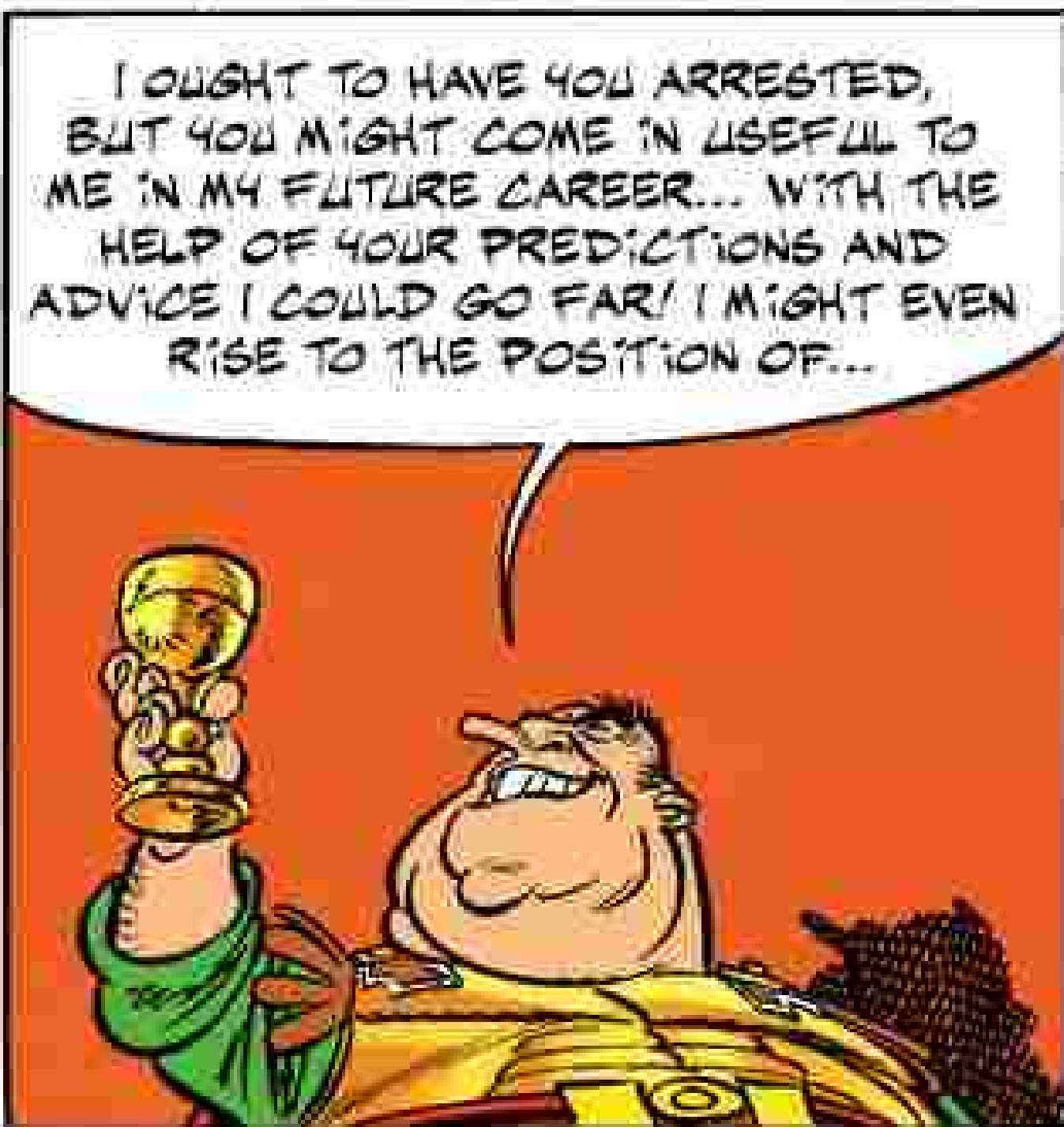
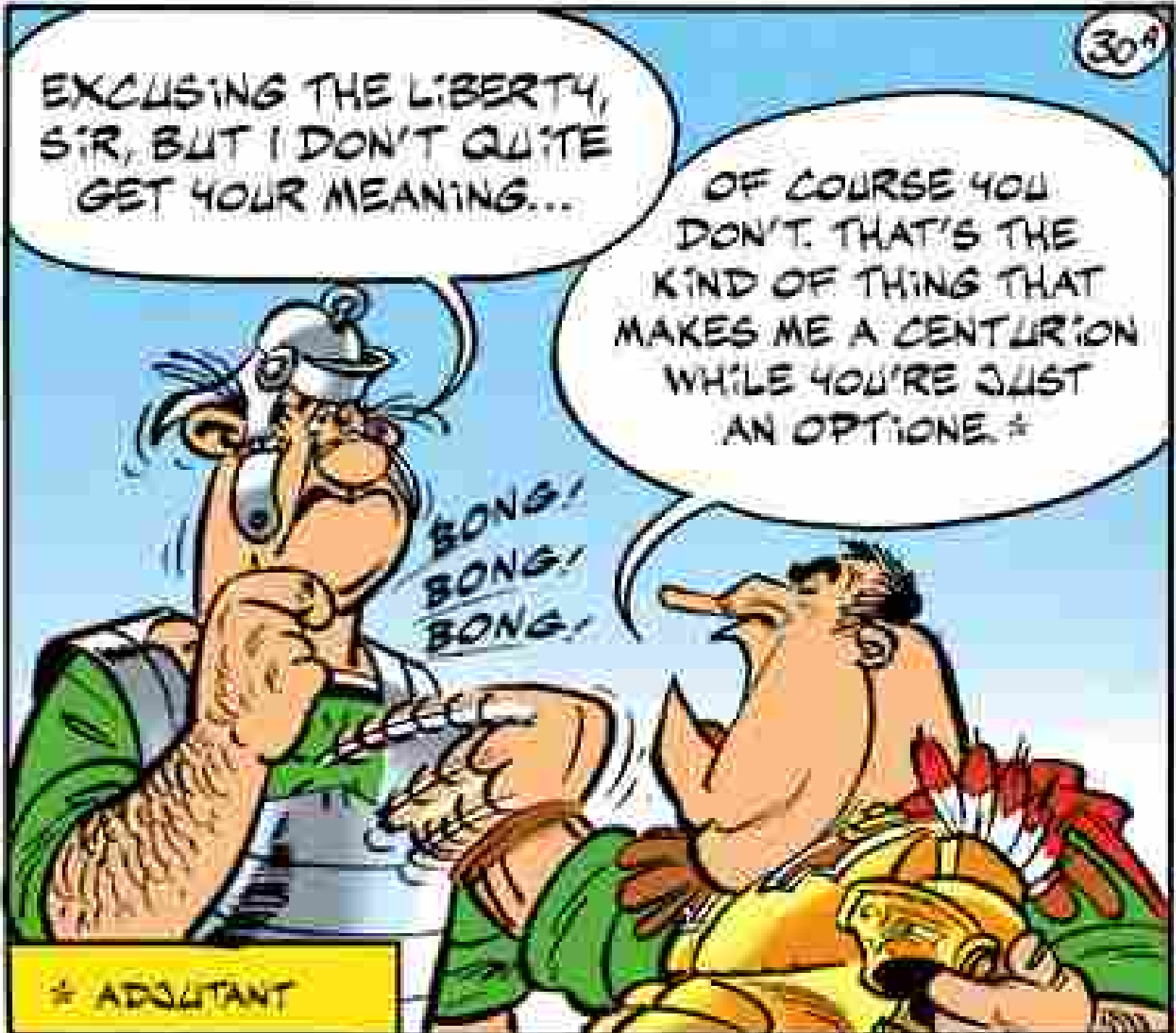
I'VE THOUGHT OF SOMETHING ALREADY. WE GO TO THEIR CAMP AND BASH THE WHOLE PLACE UP

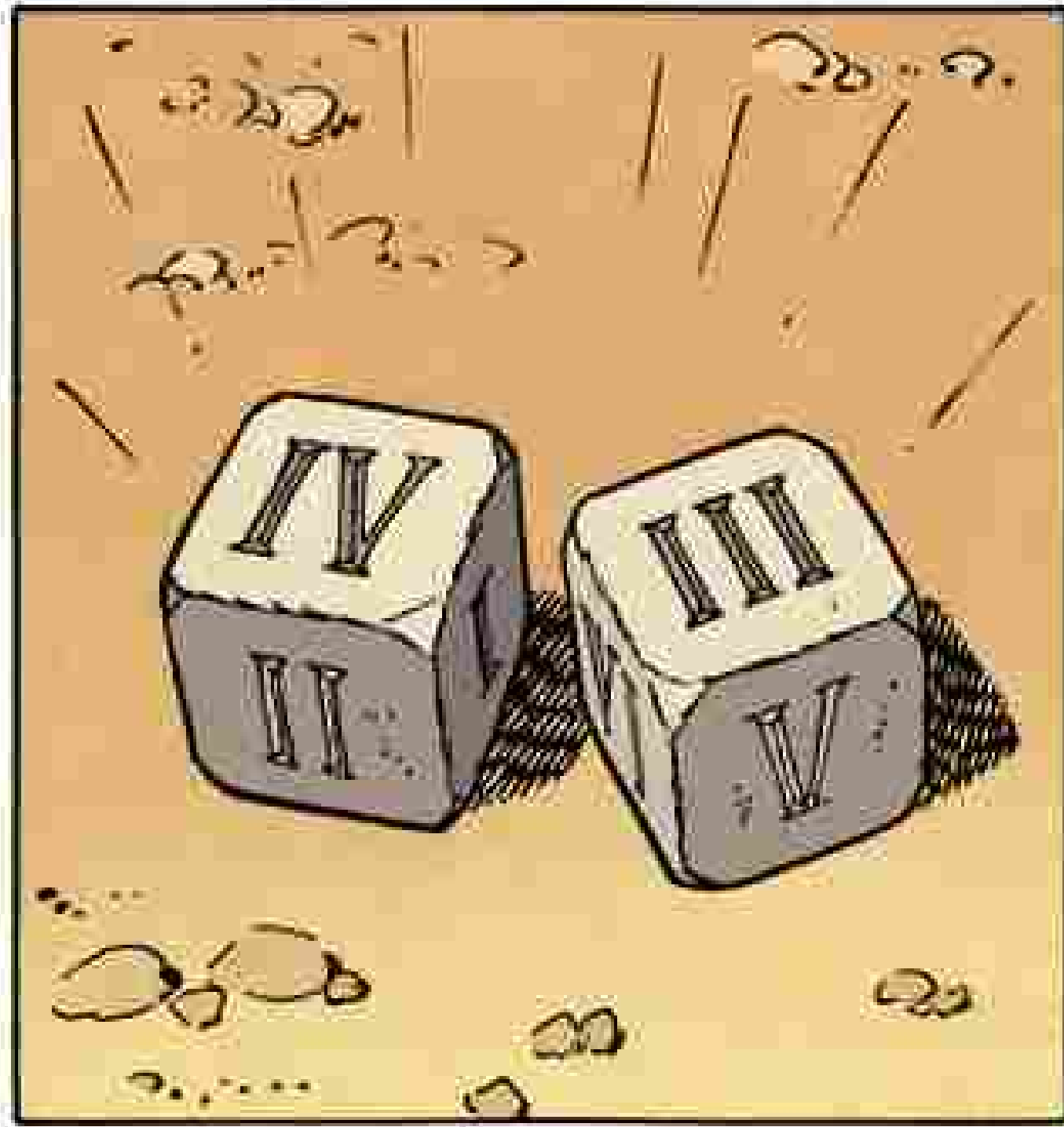
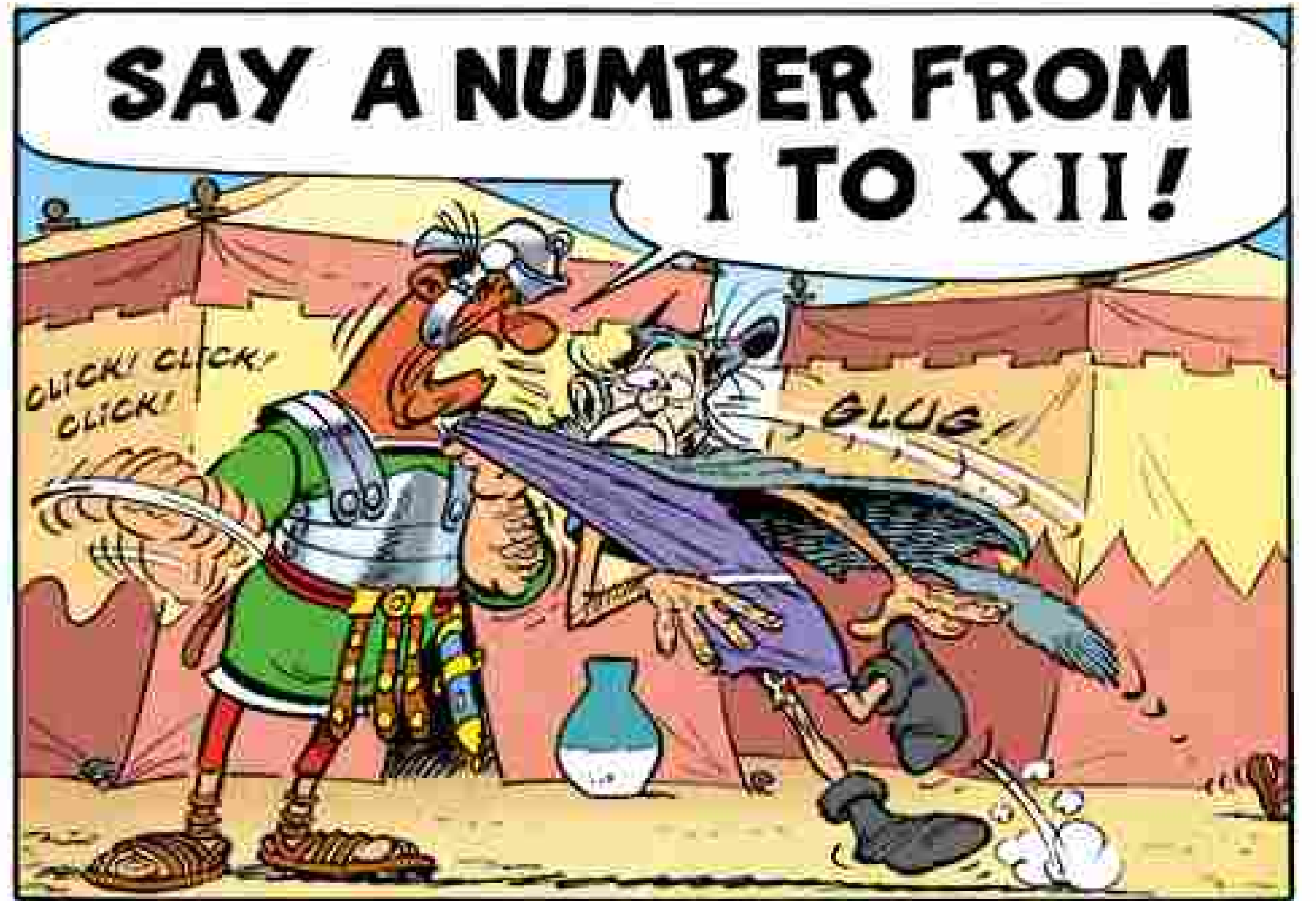
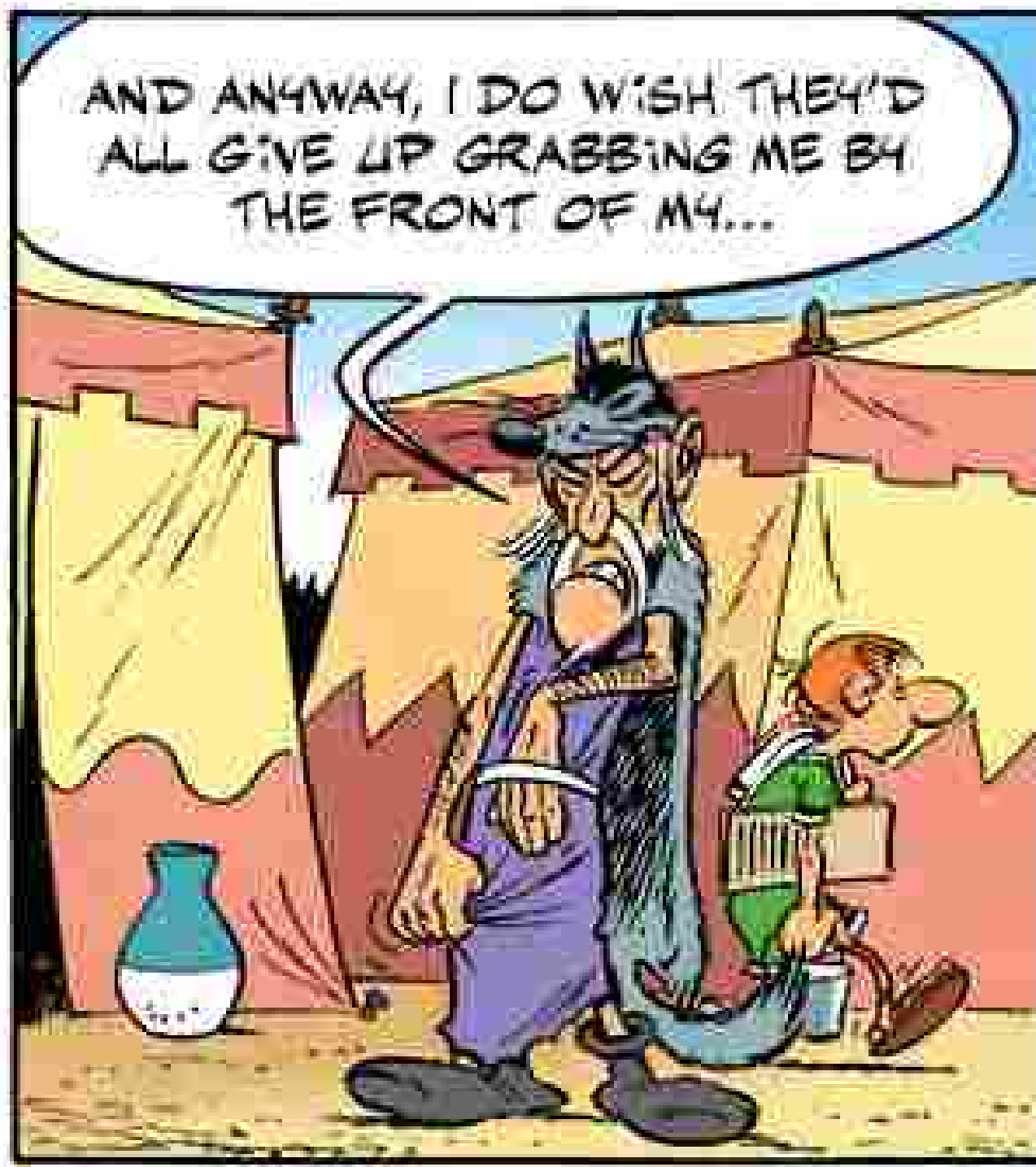
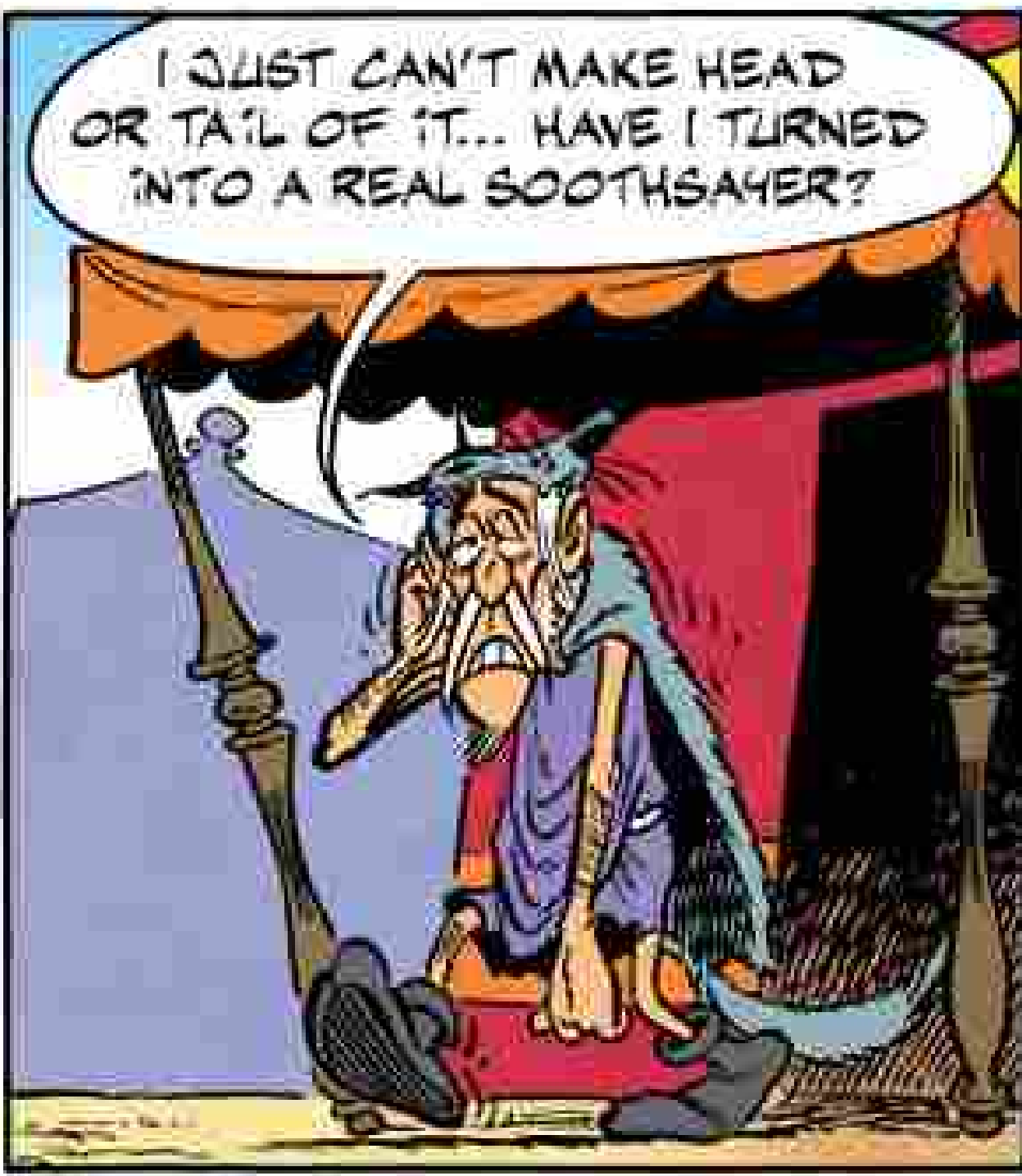


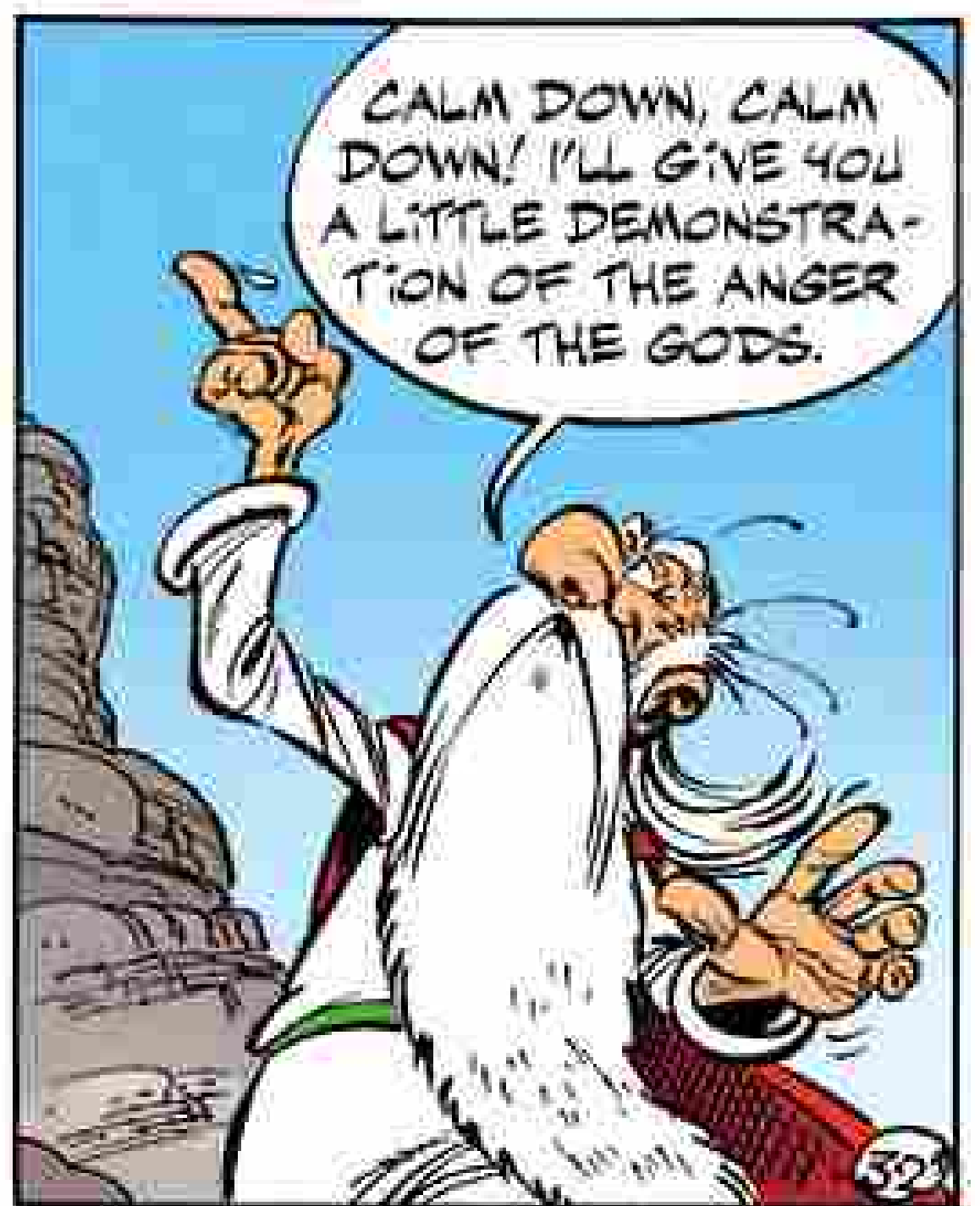
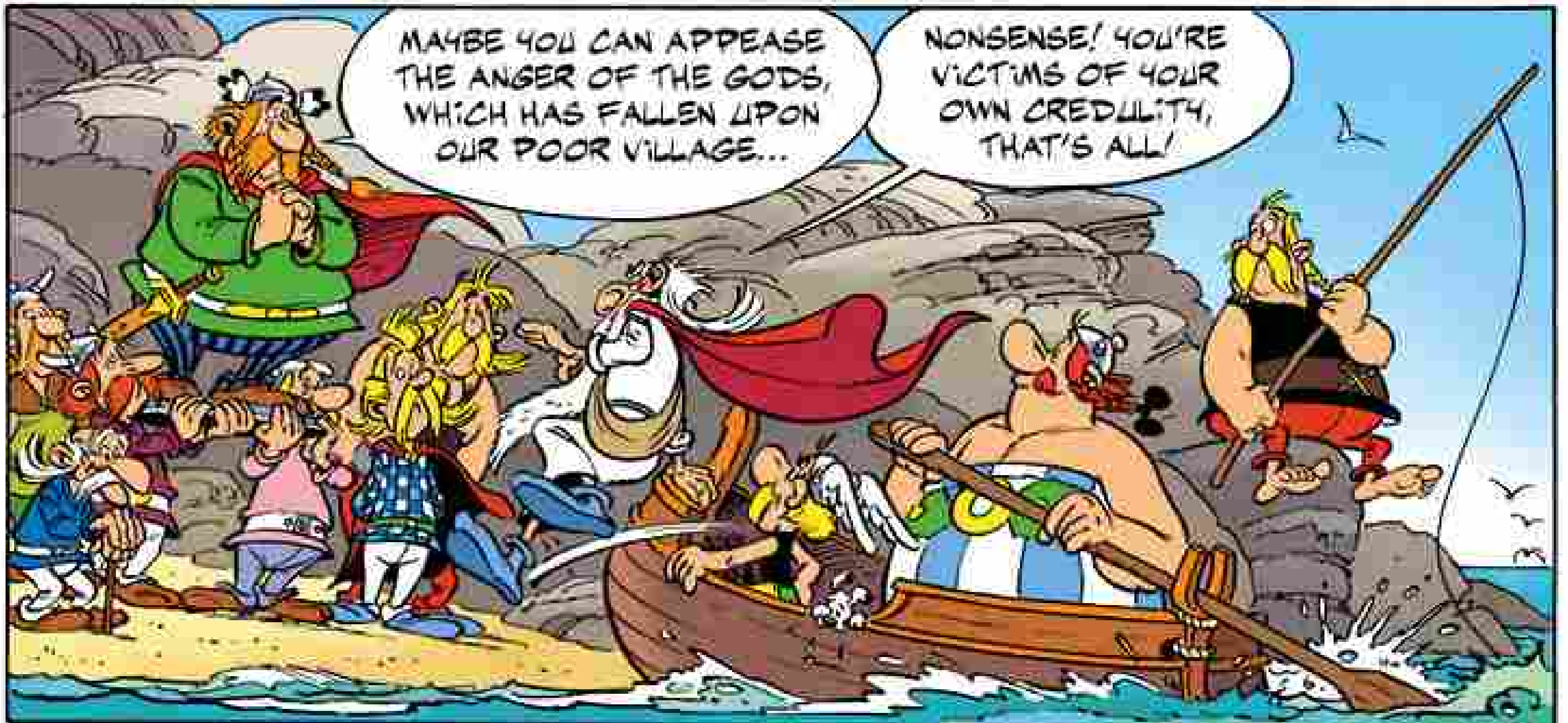
WHEREVER DO YOU GET ALL THESE ORIGINAL IDEAS?

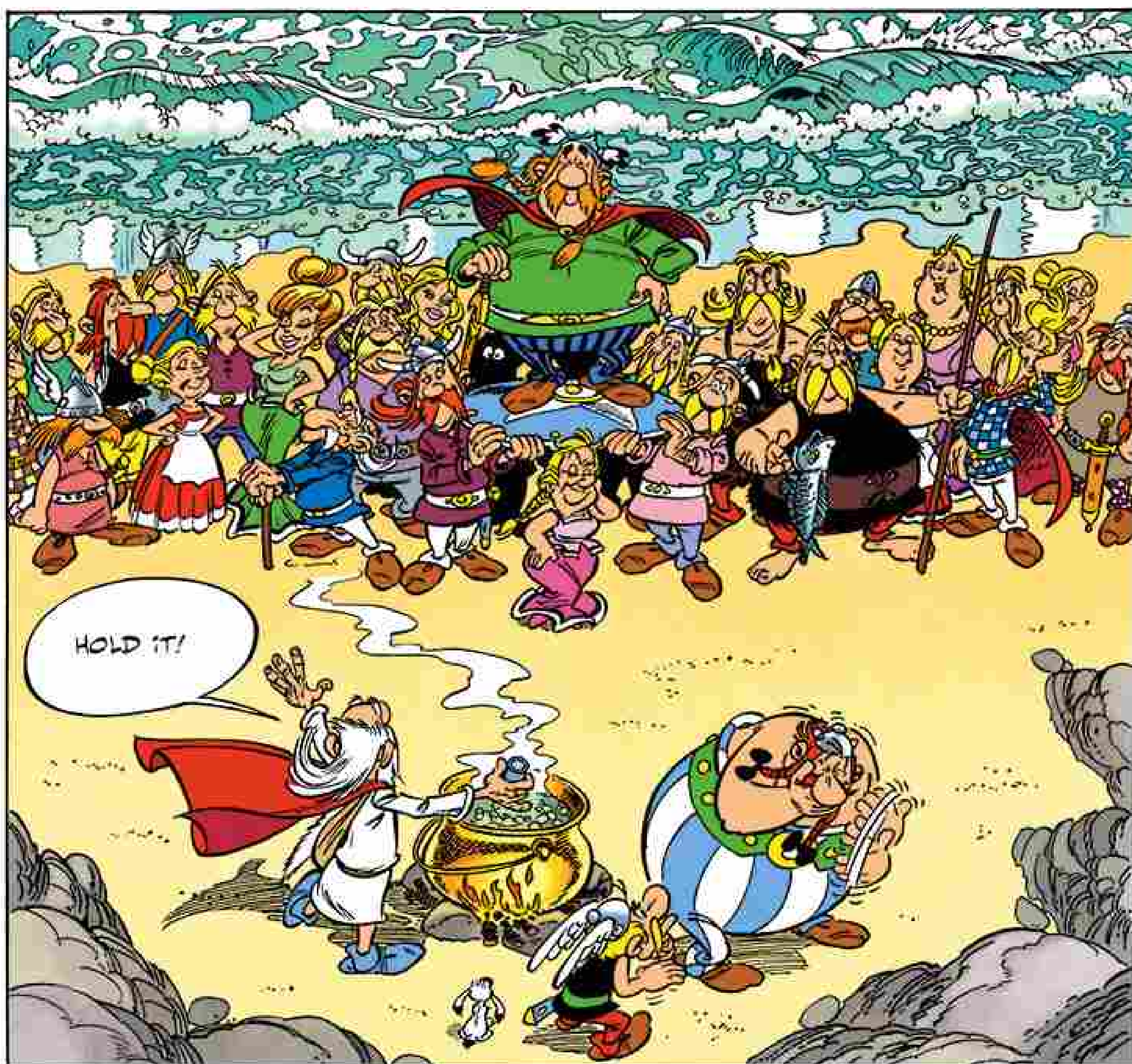
A HANDSOME WARRIOR WITH RED PIGTAILS, YES! BUT I'M NOT JUST A PRETTY FACE!

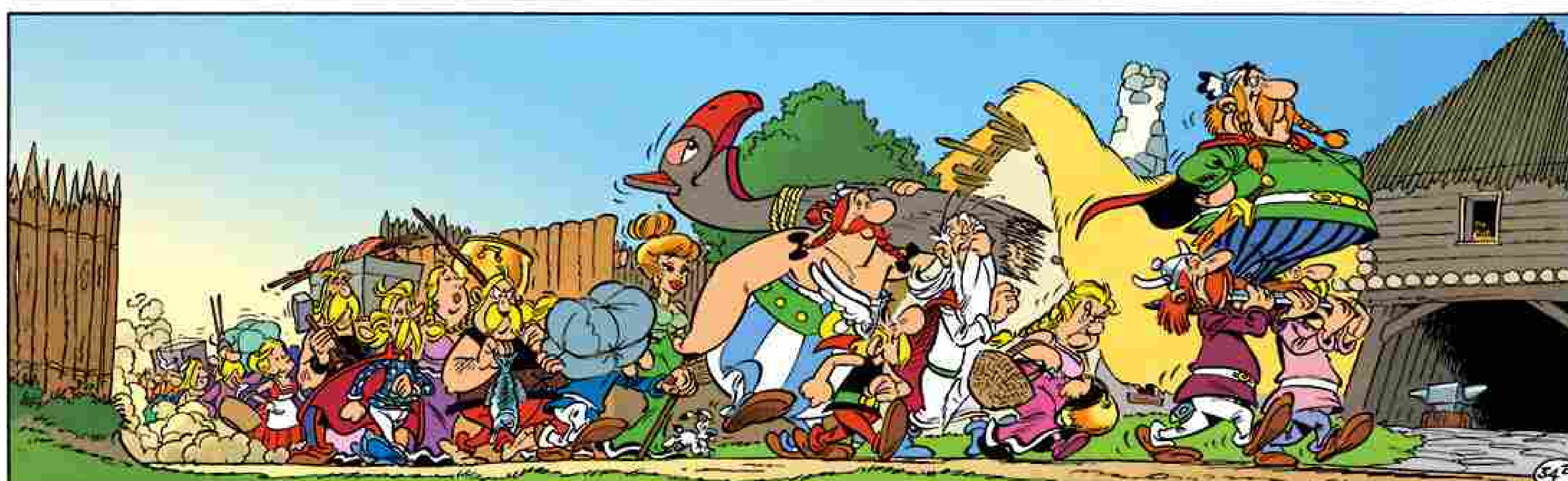
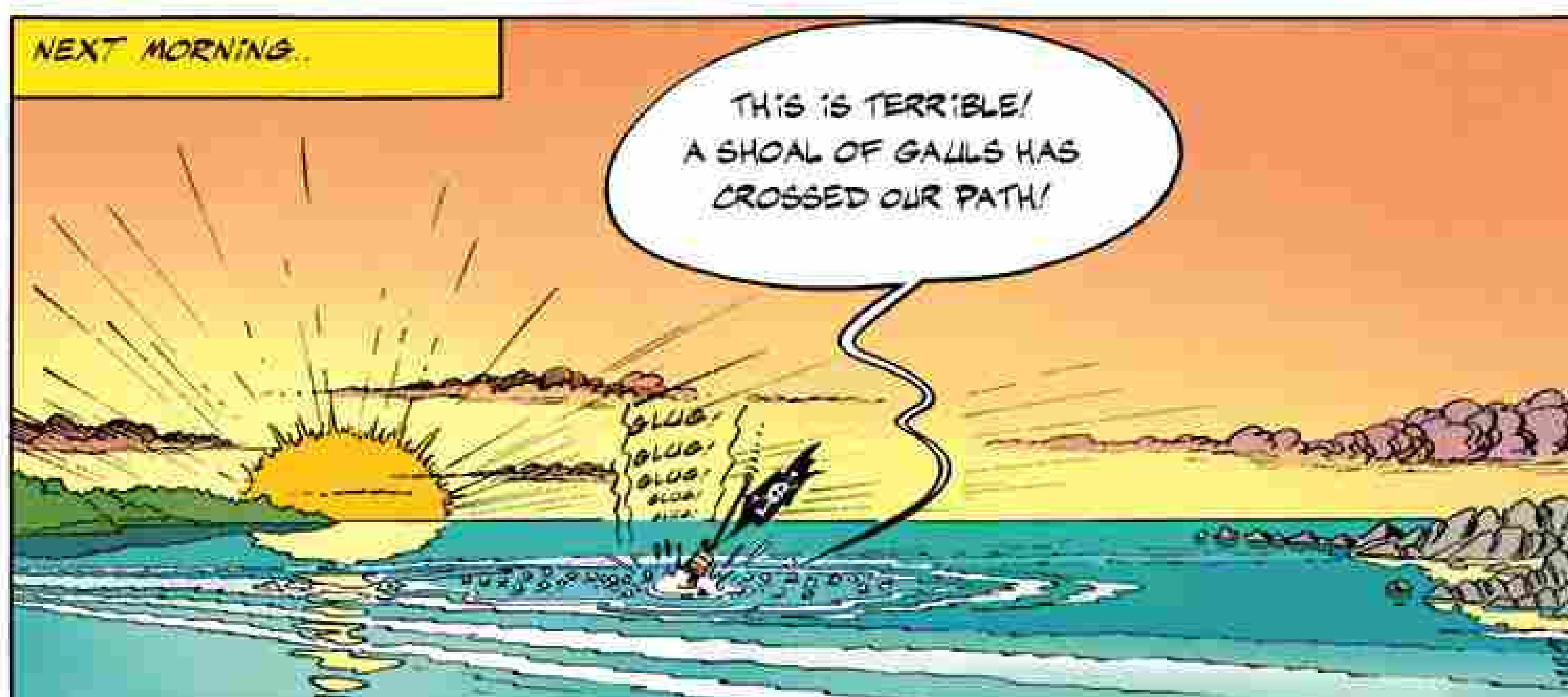
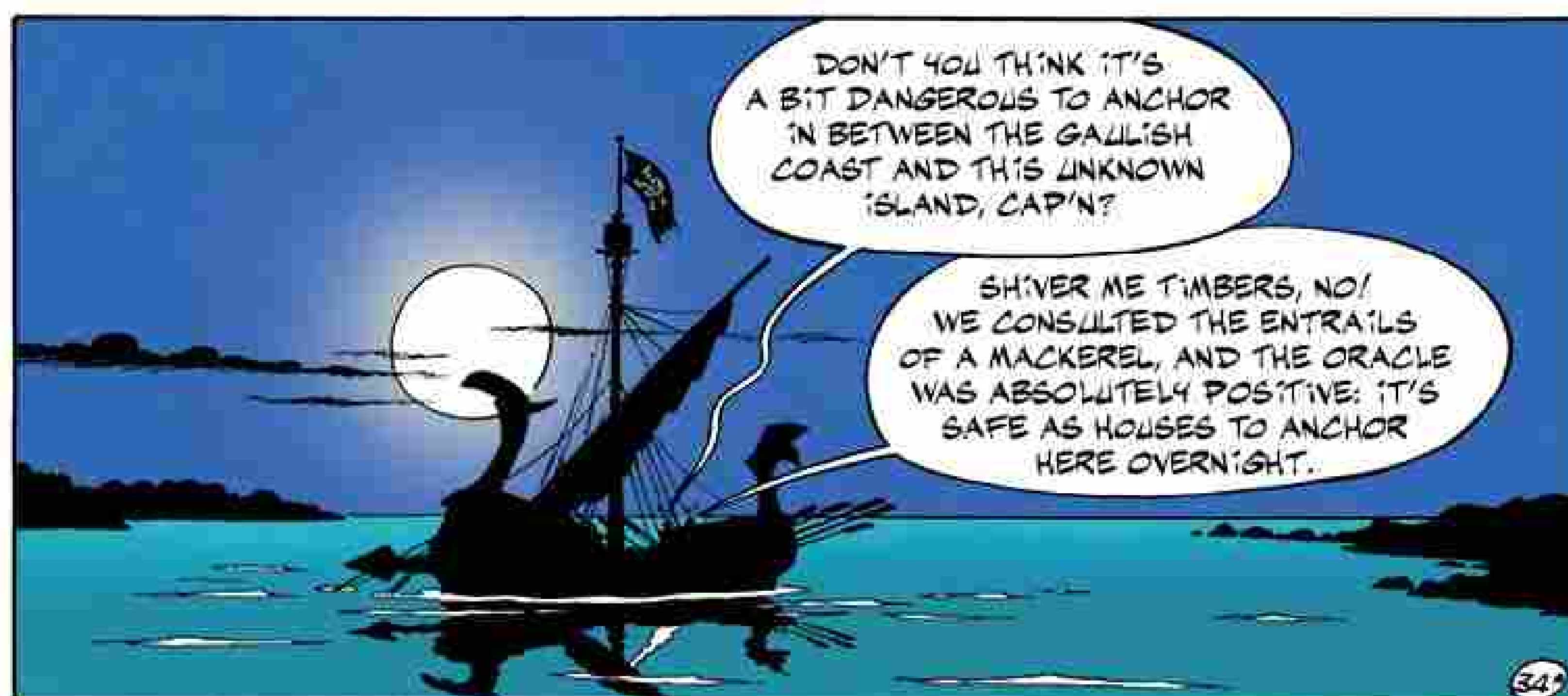
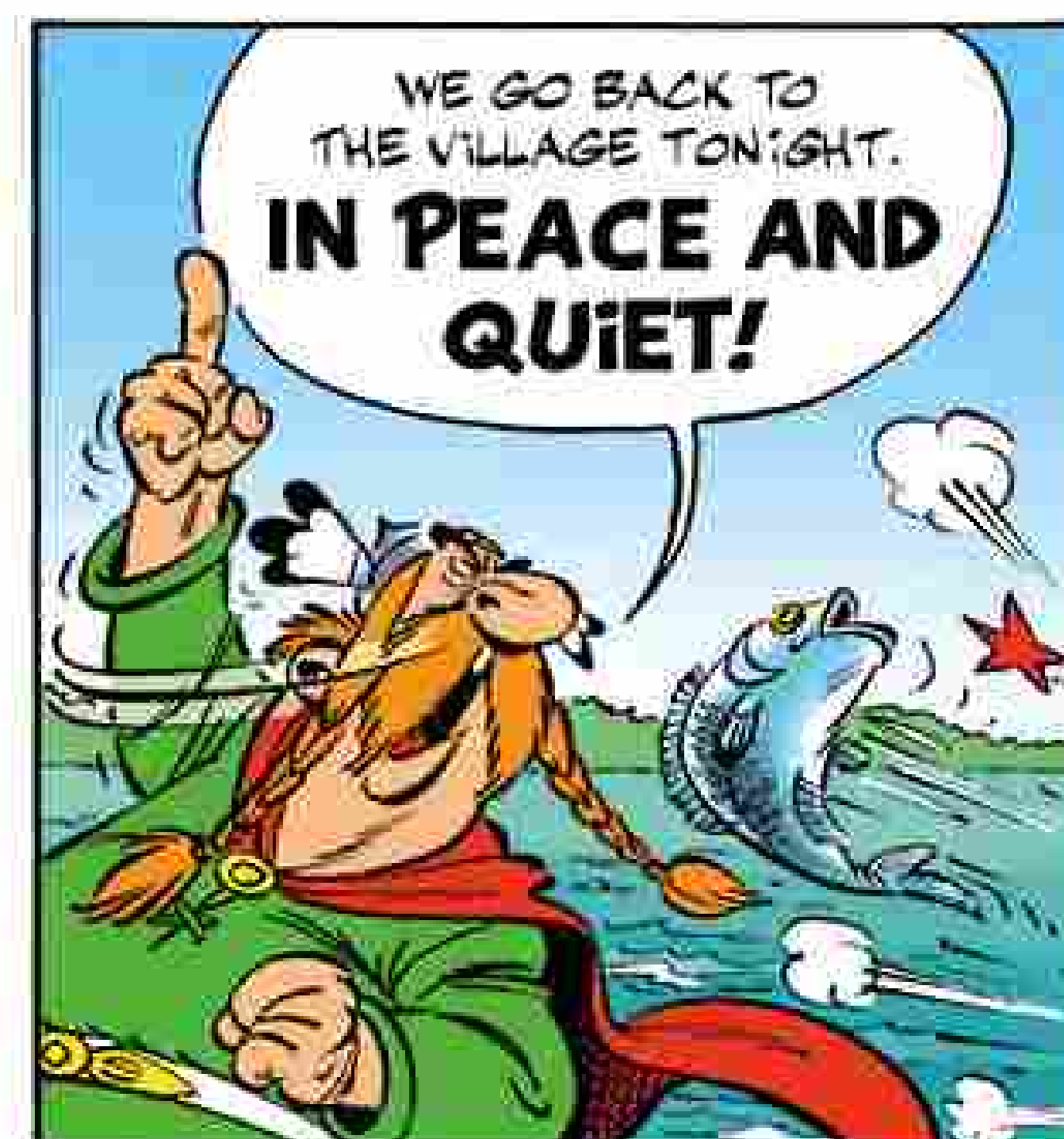
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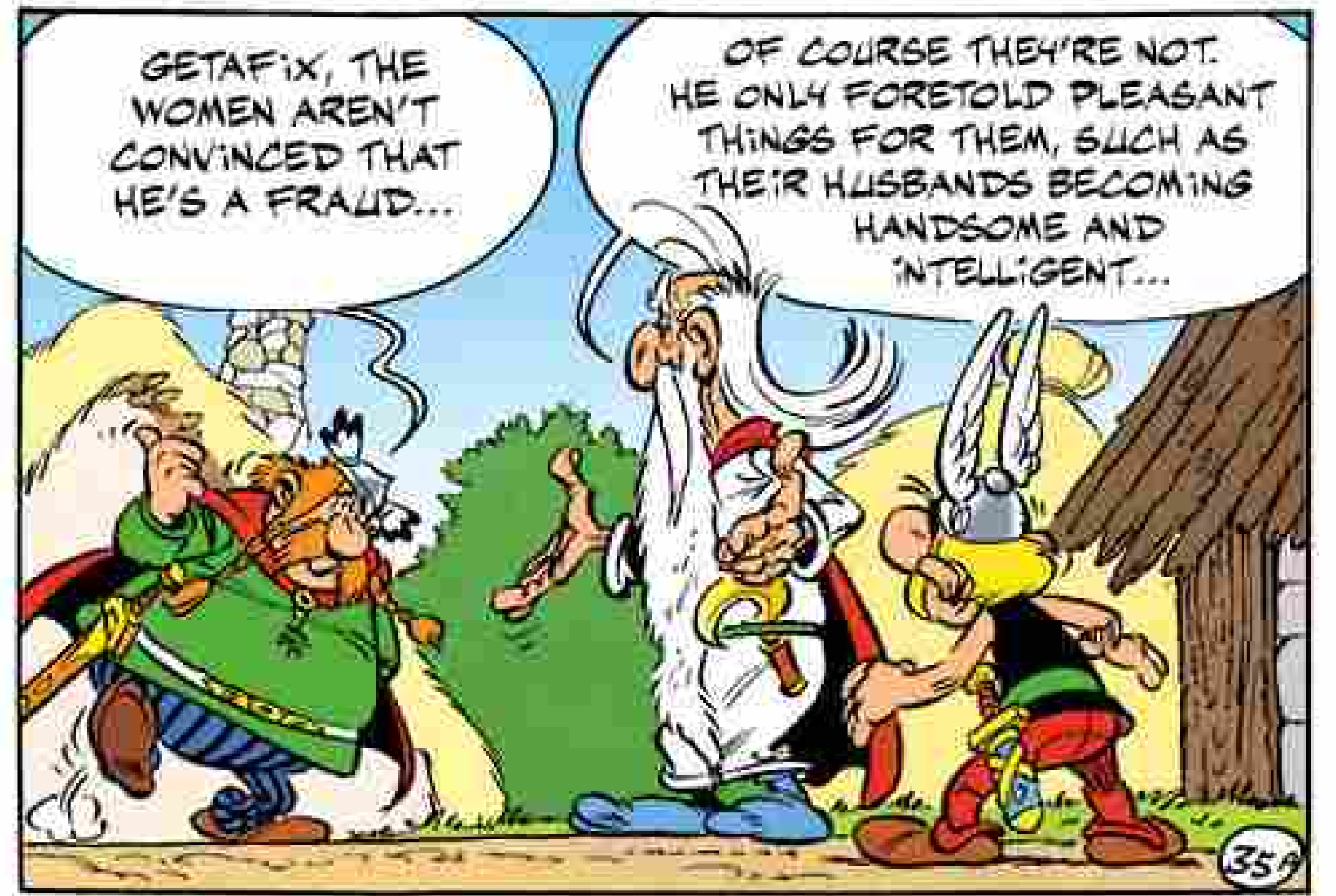
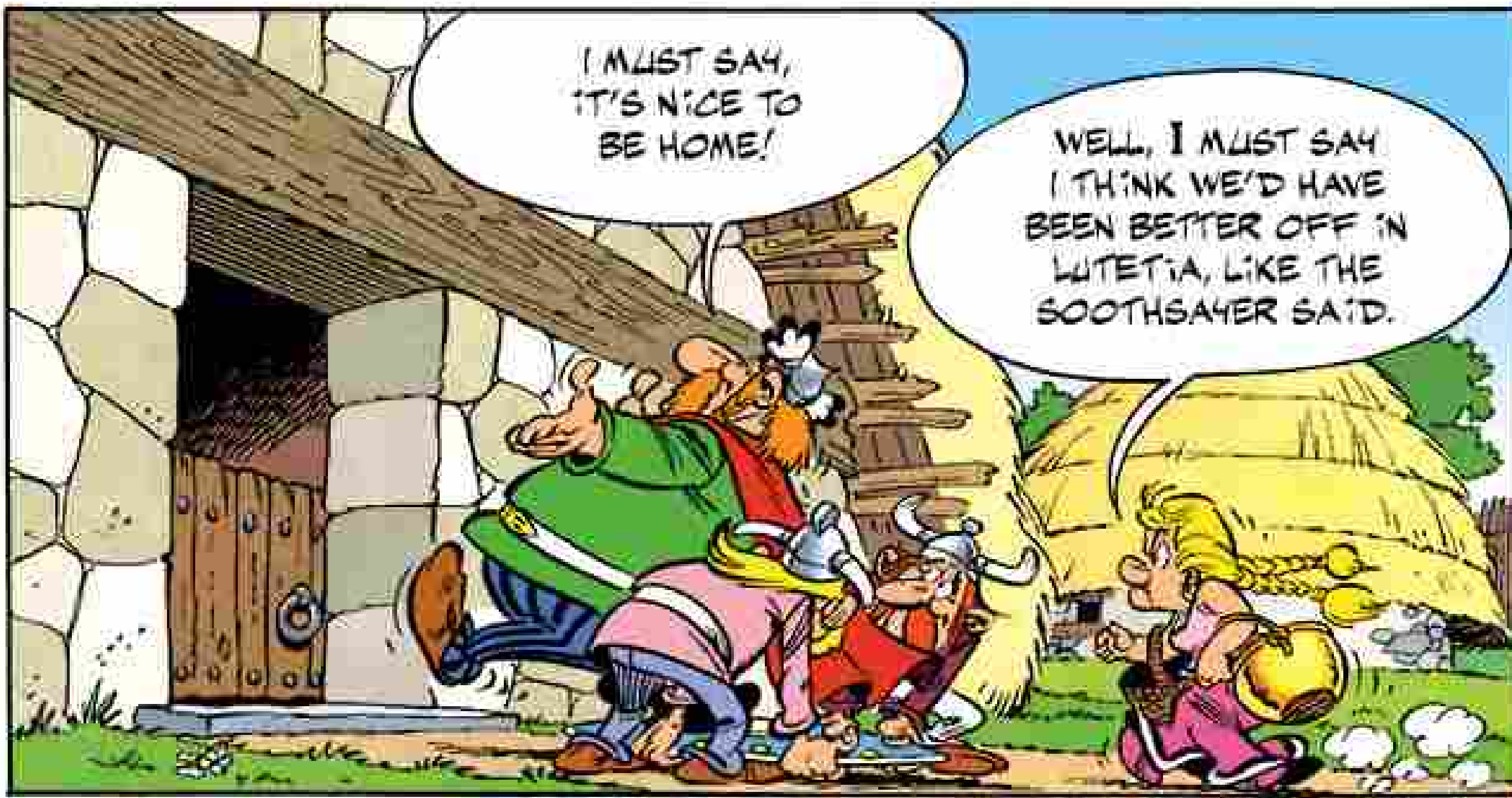


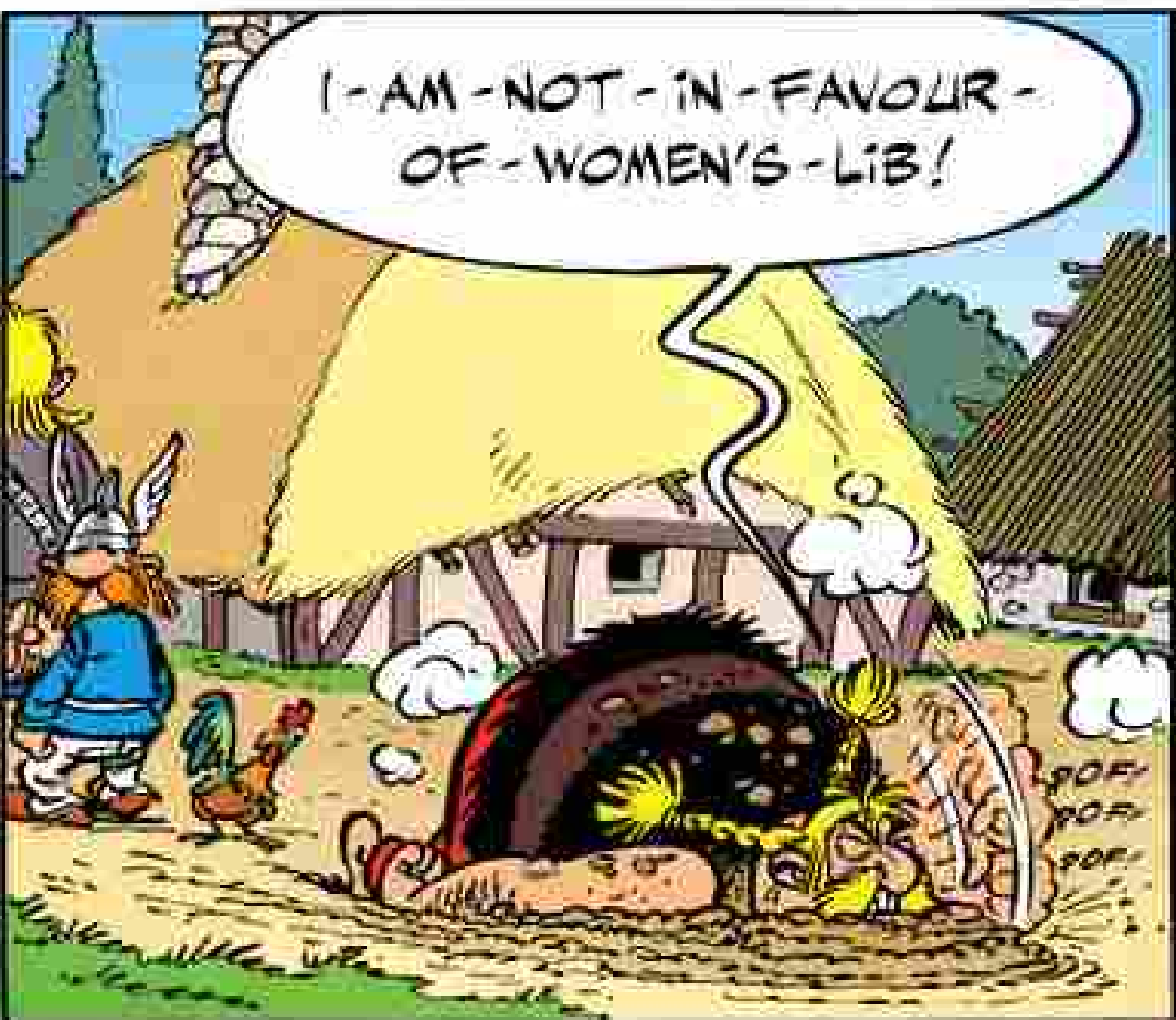
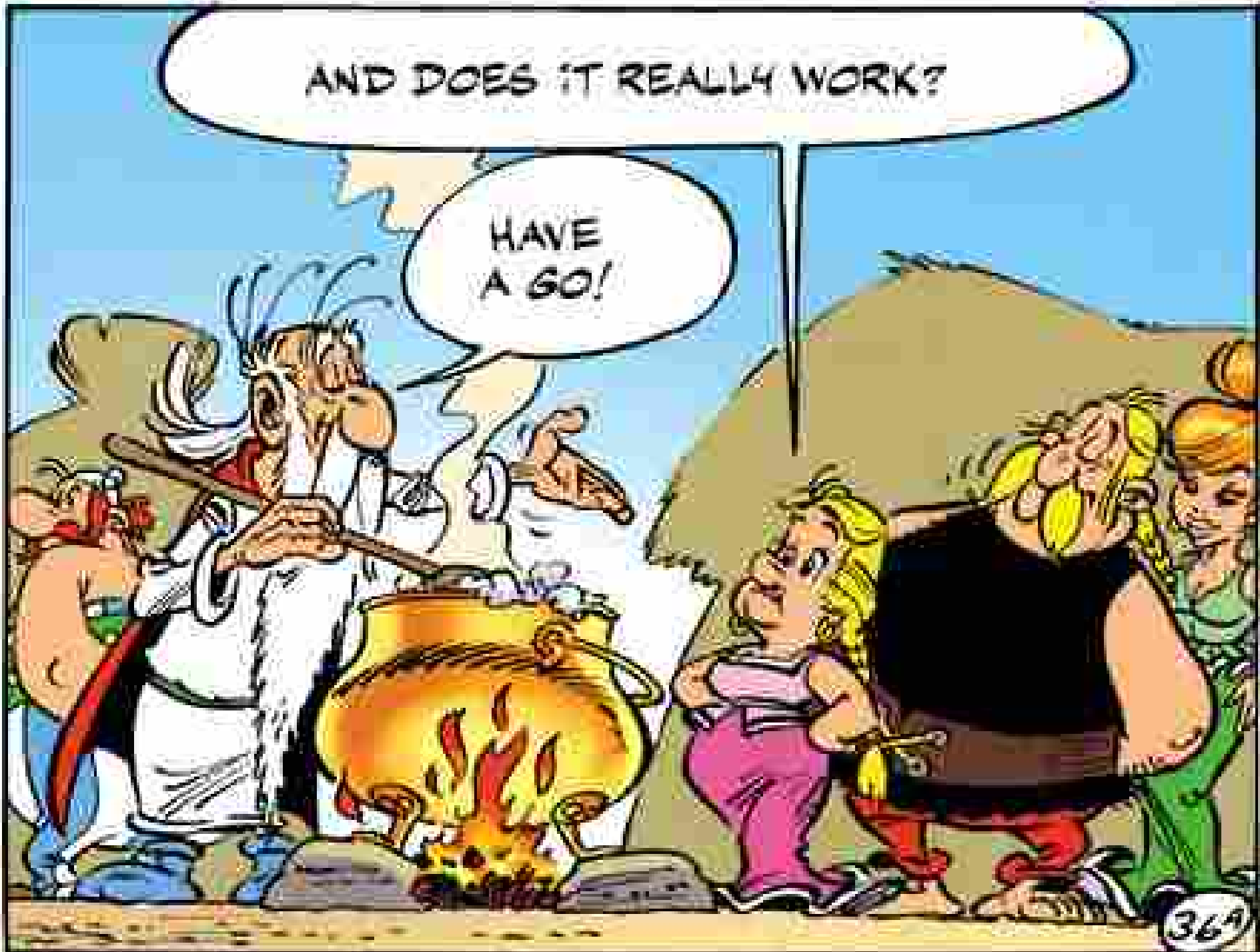


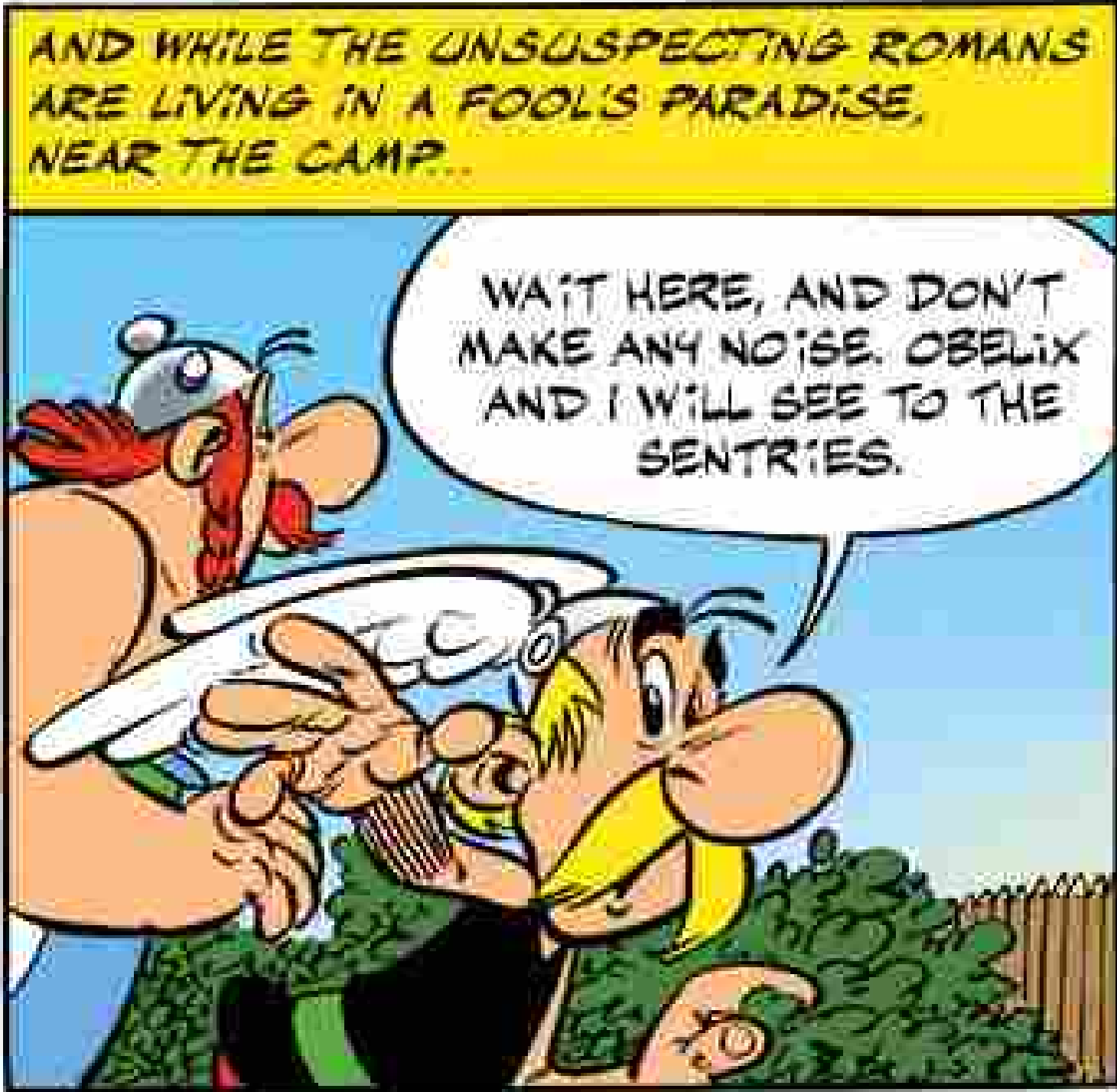
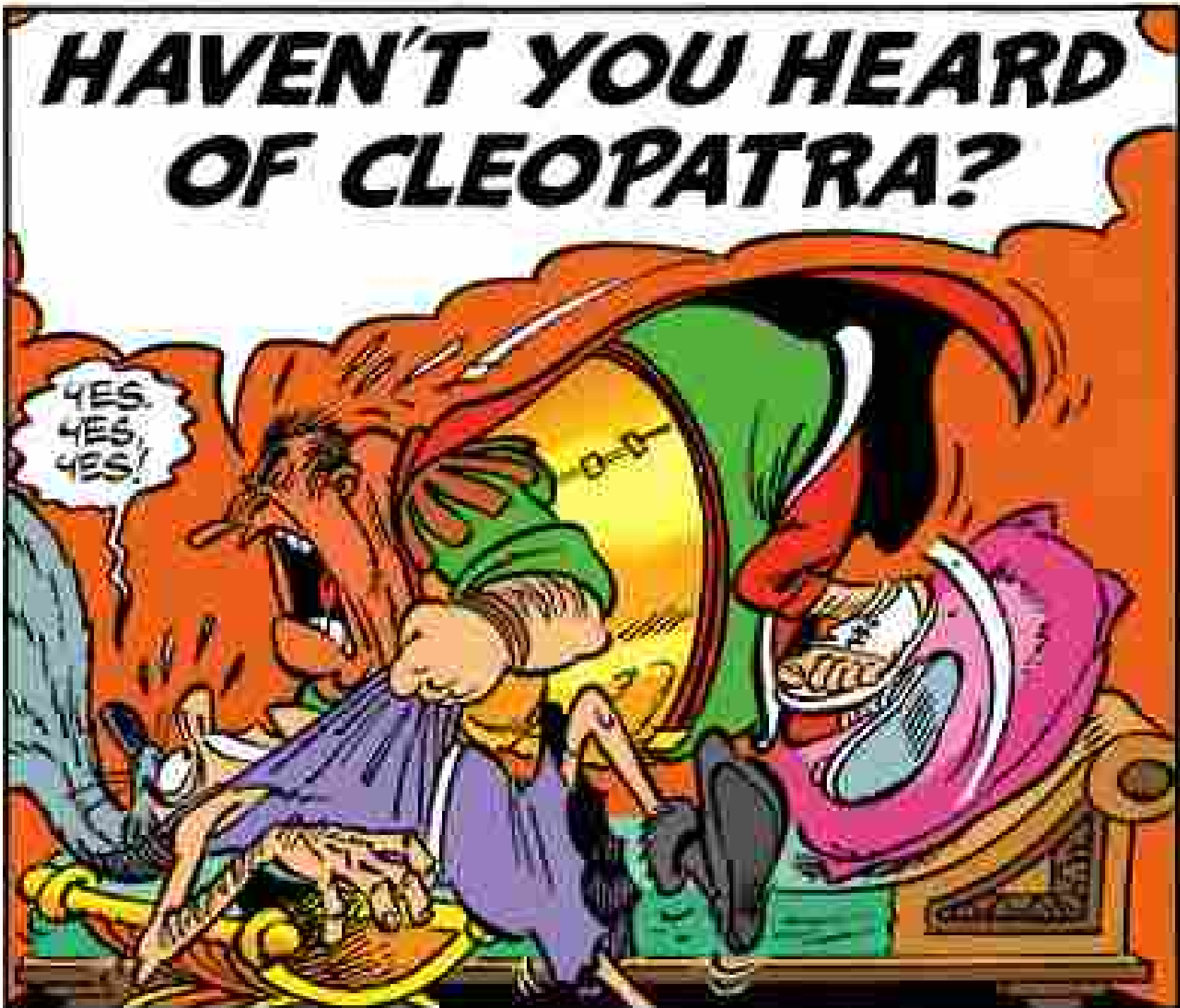
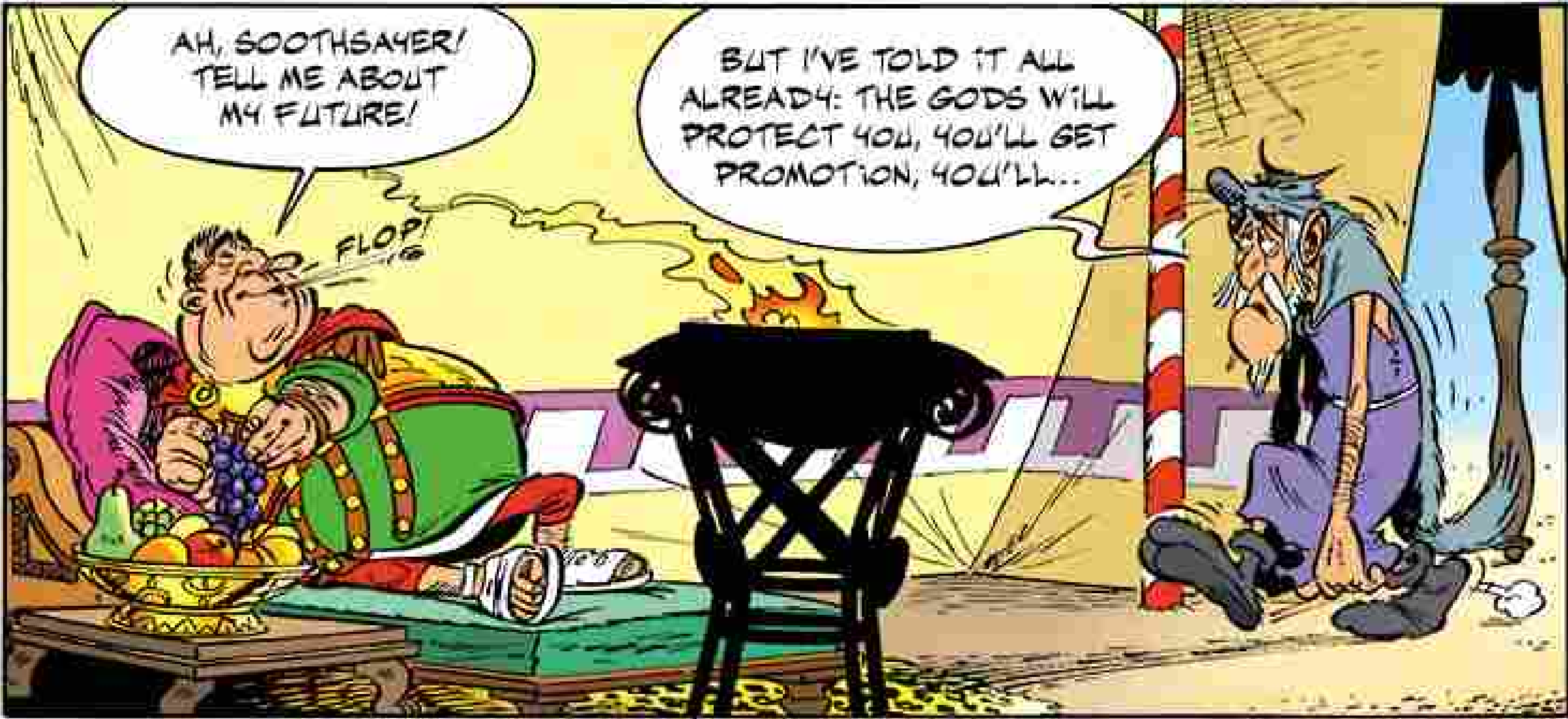




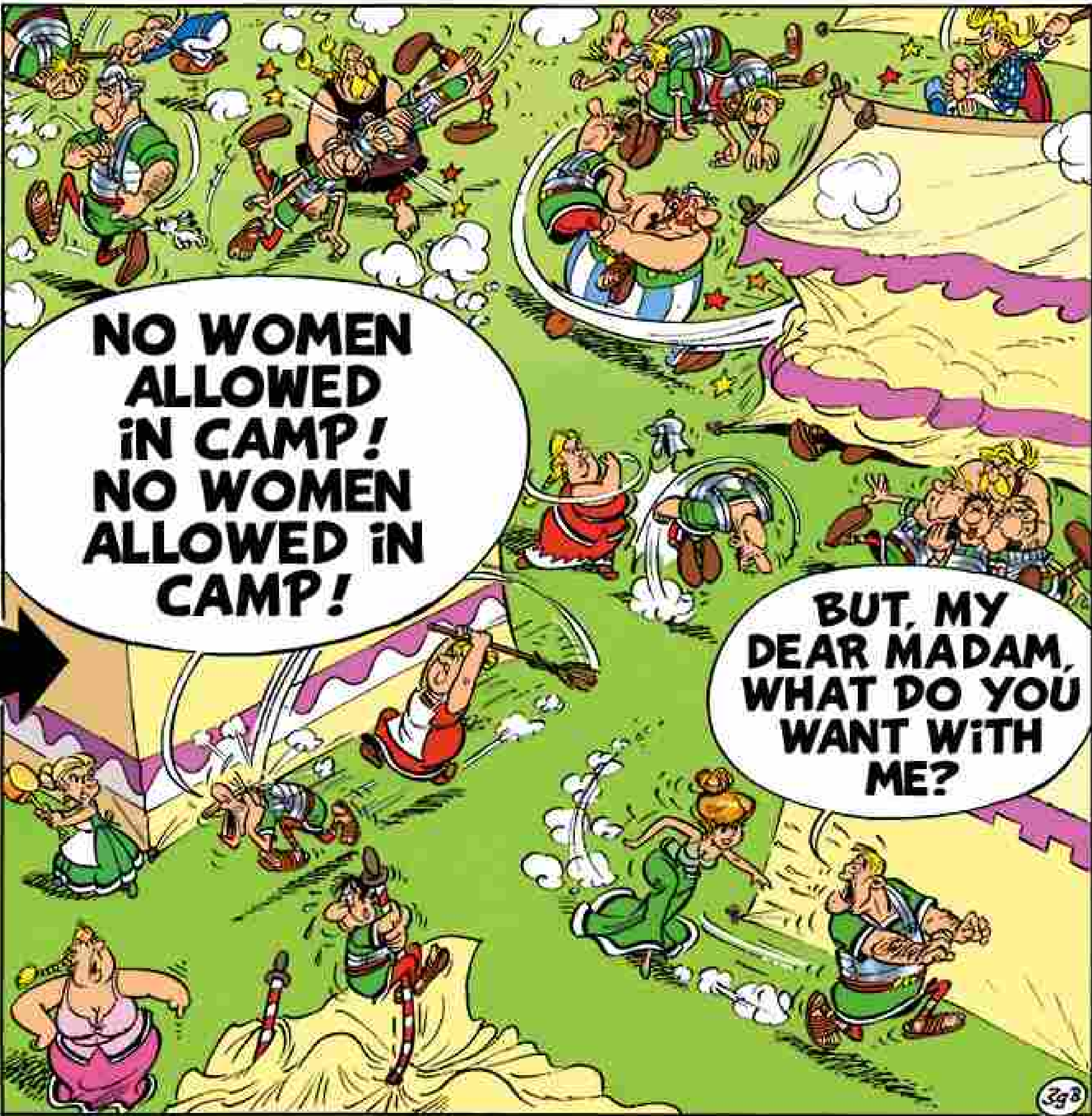
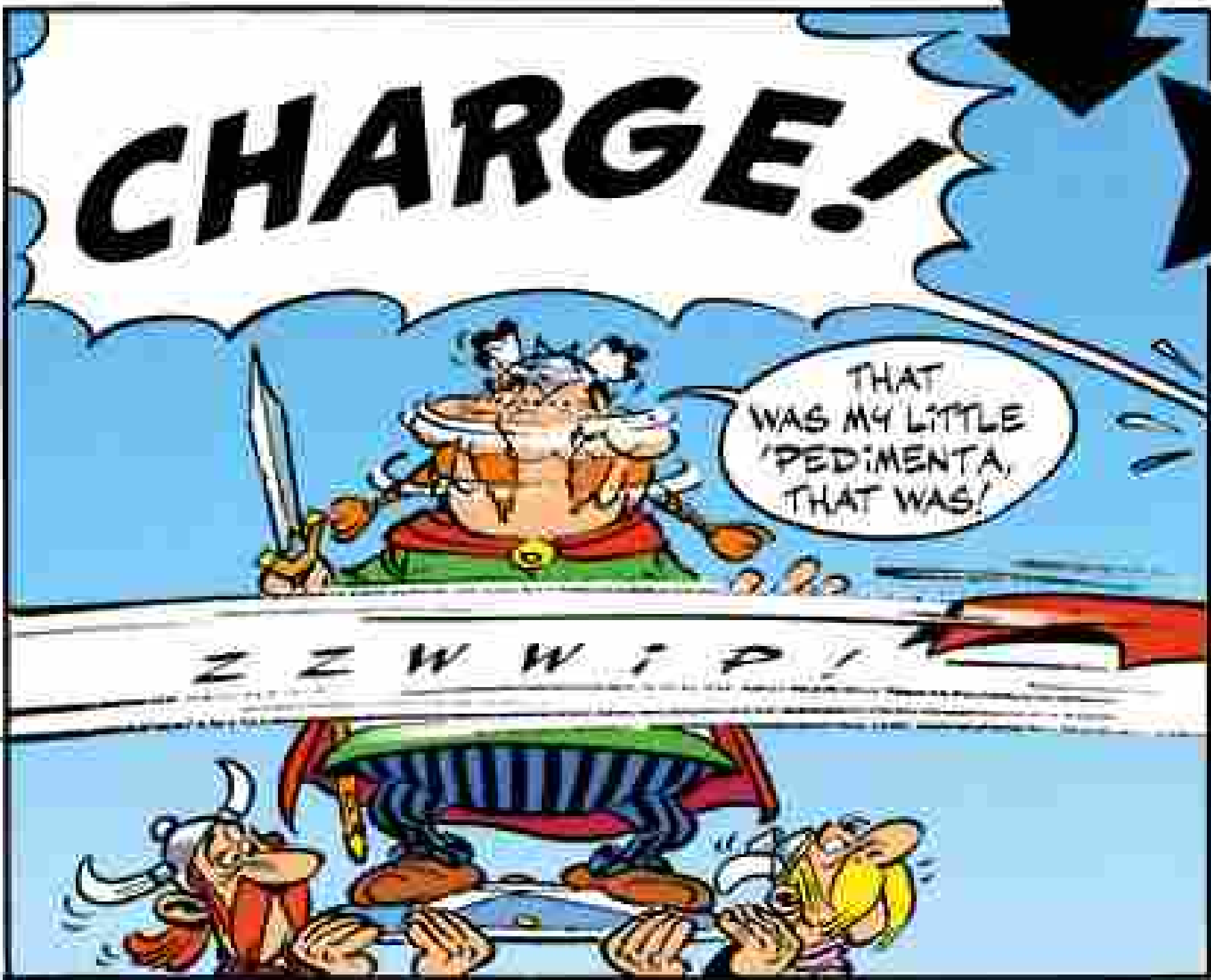
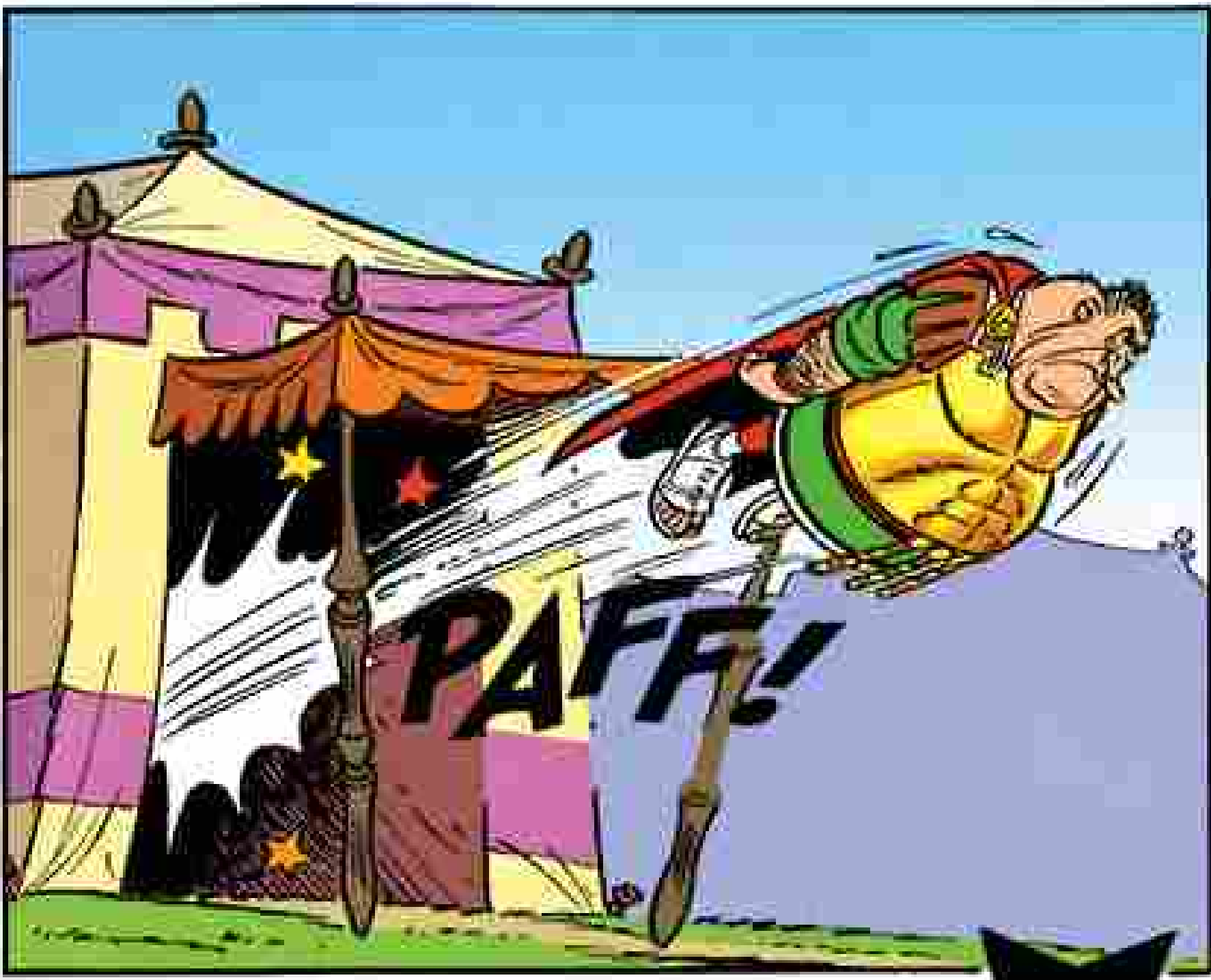
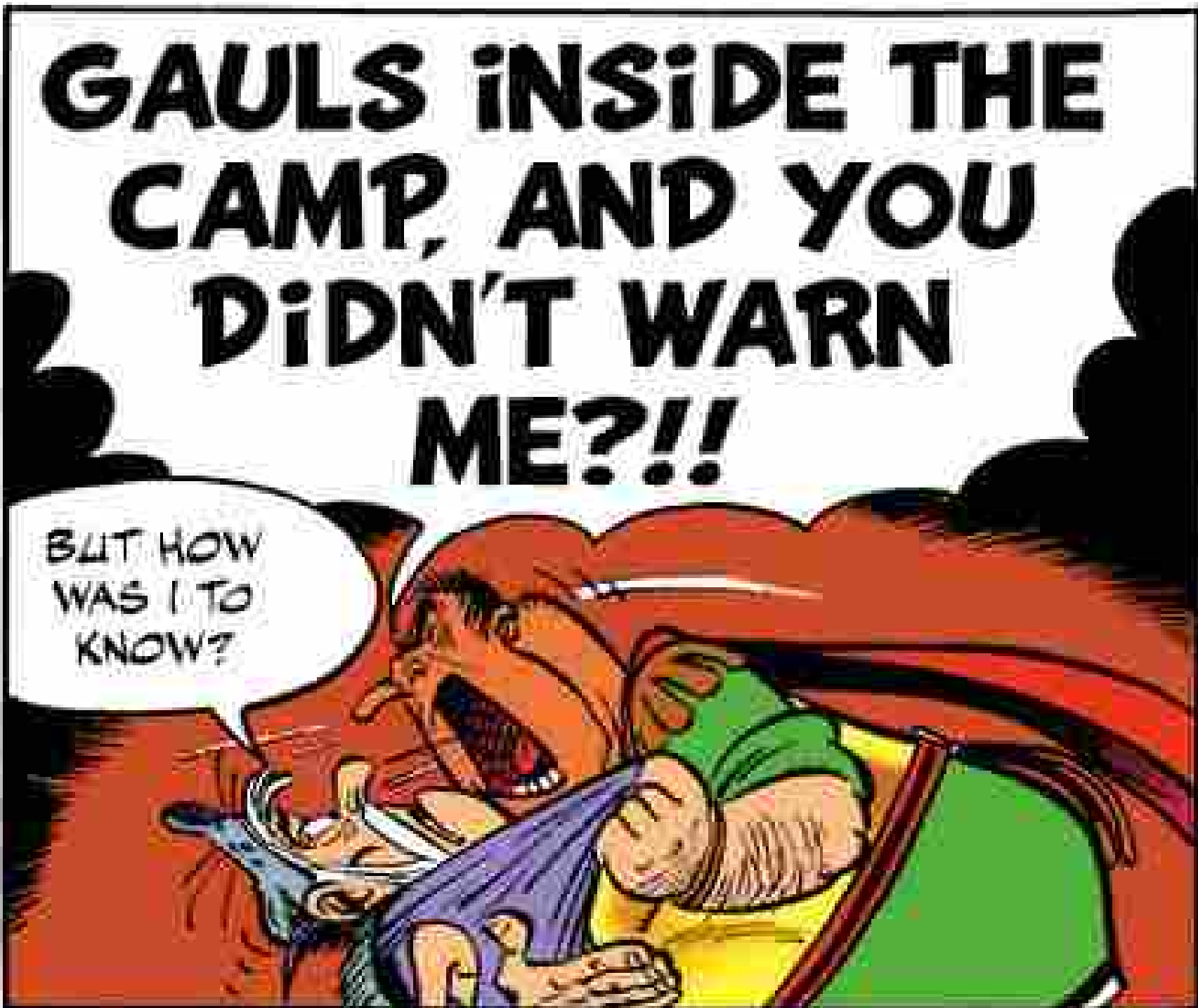
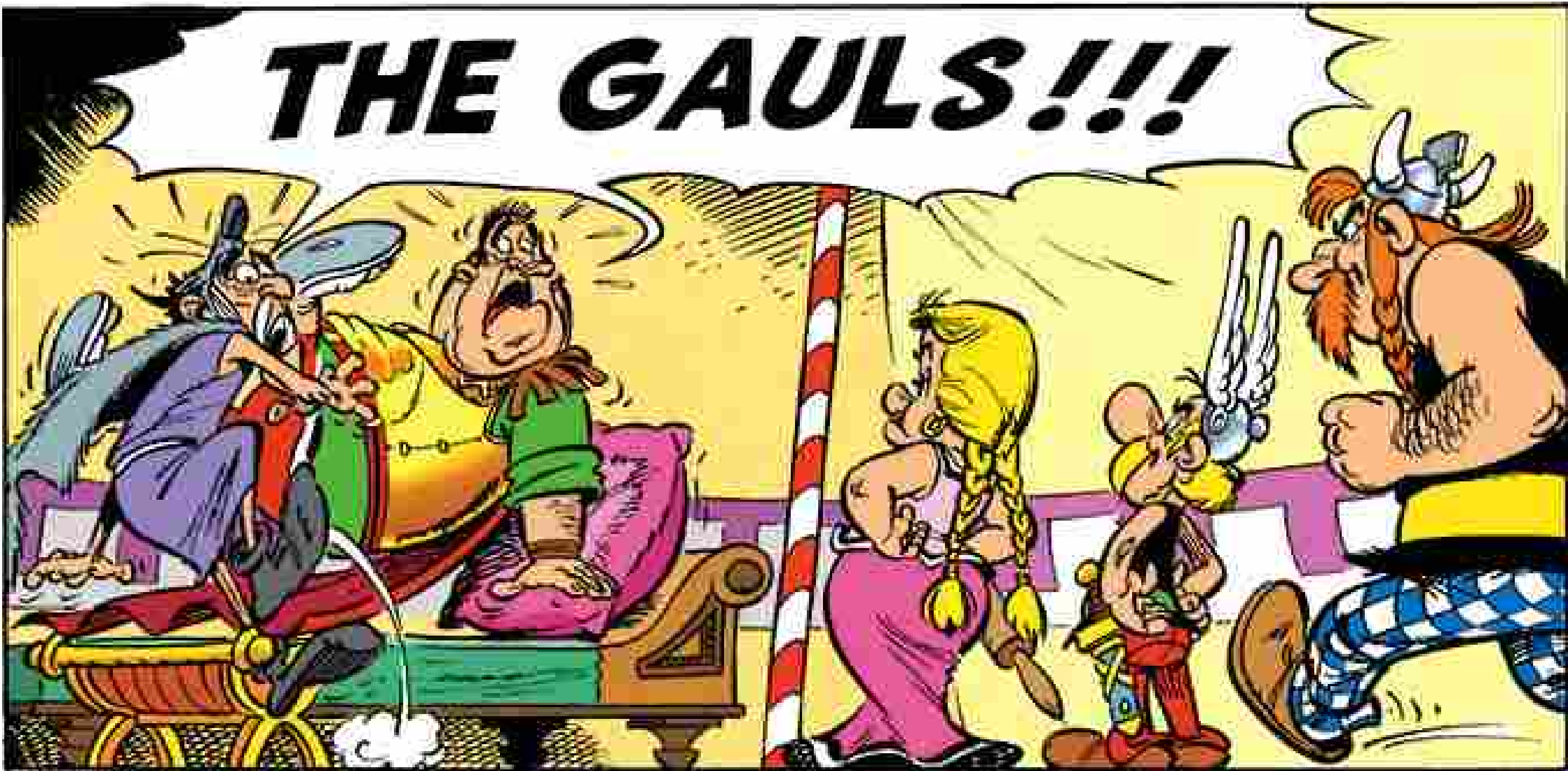


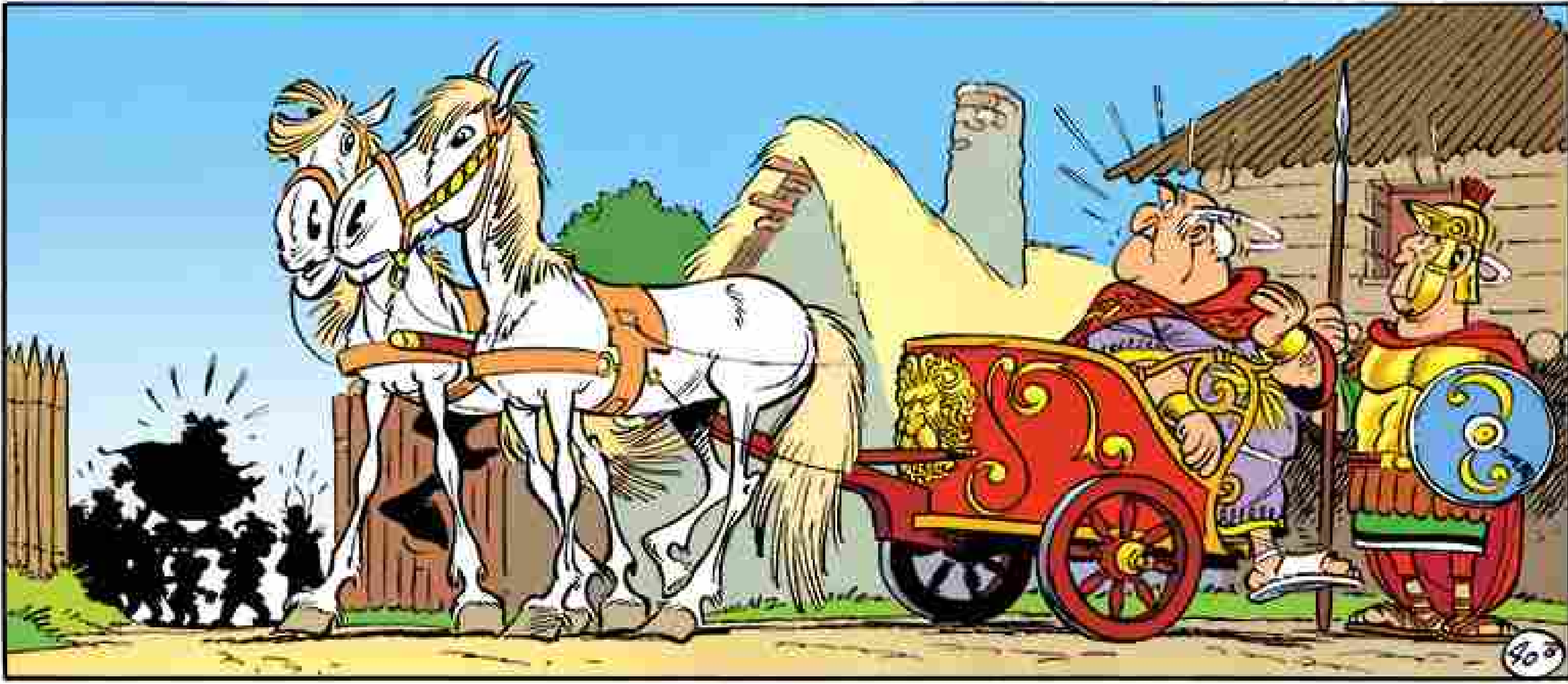


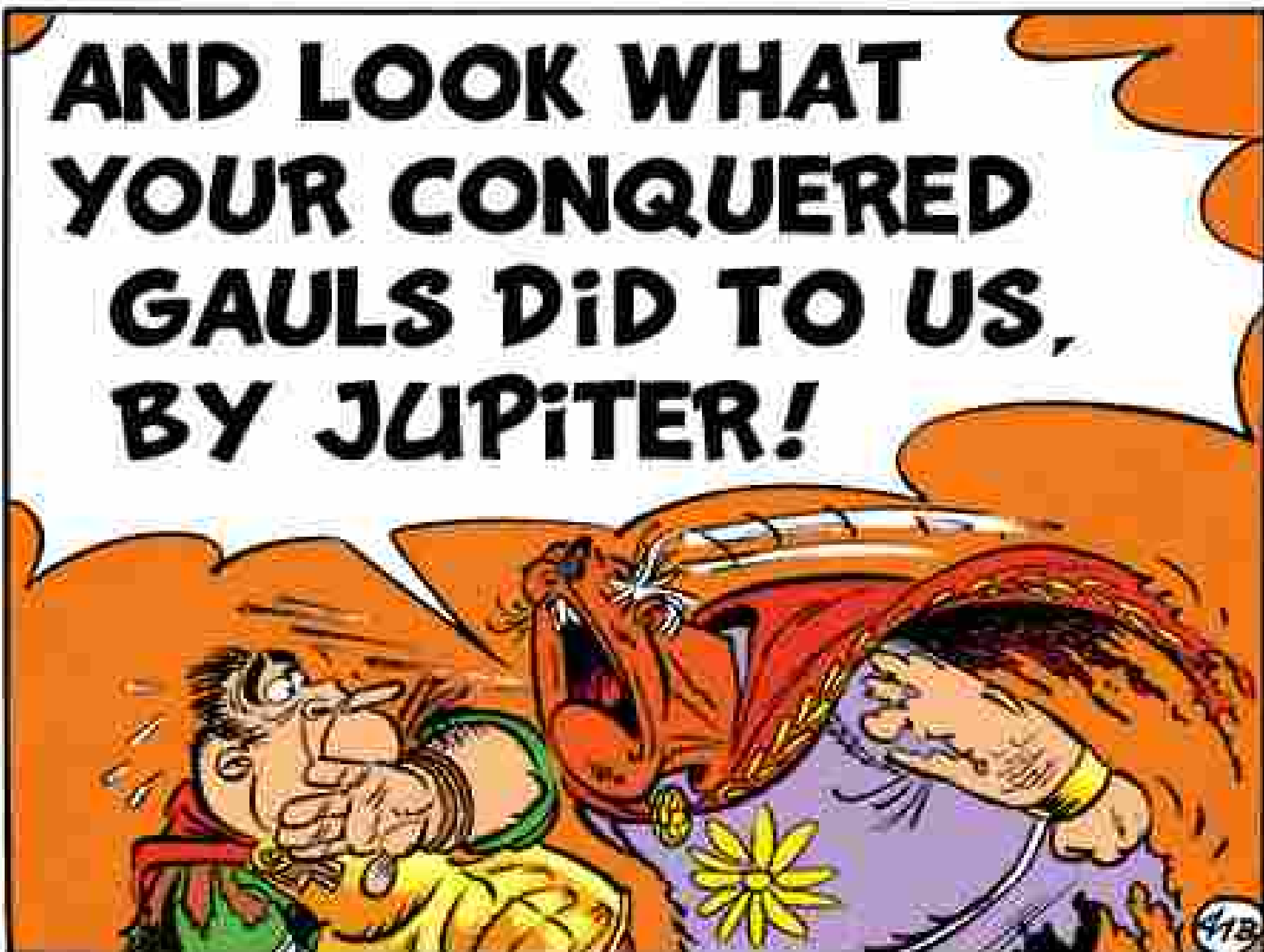
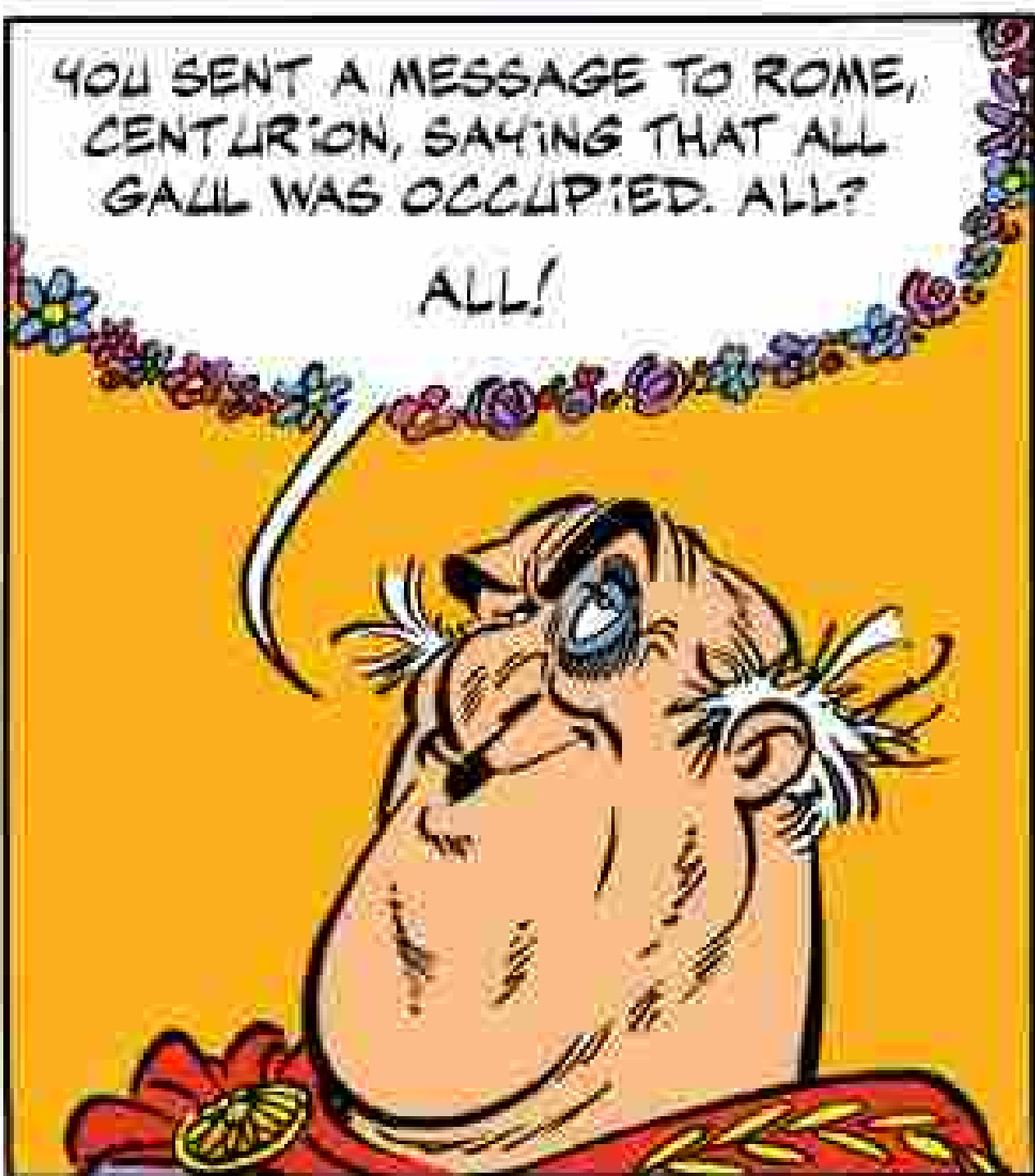


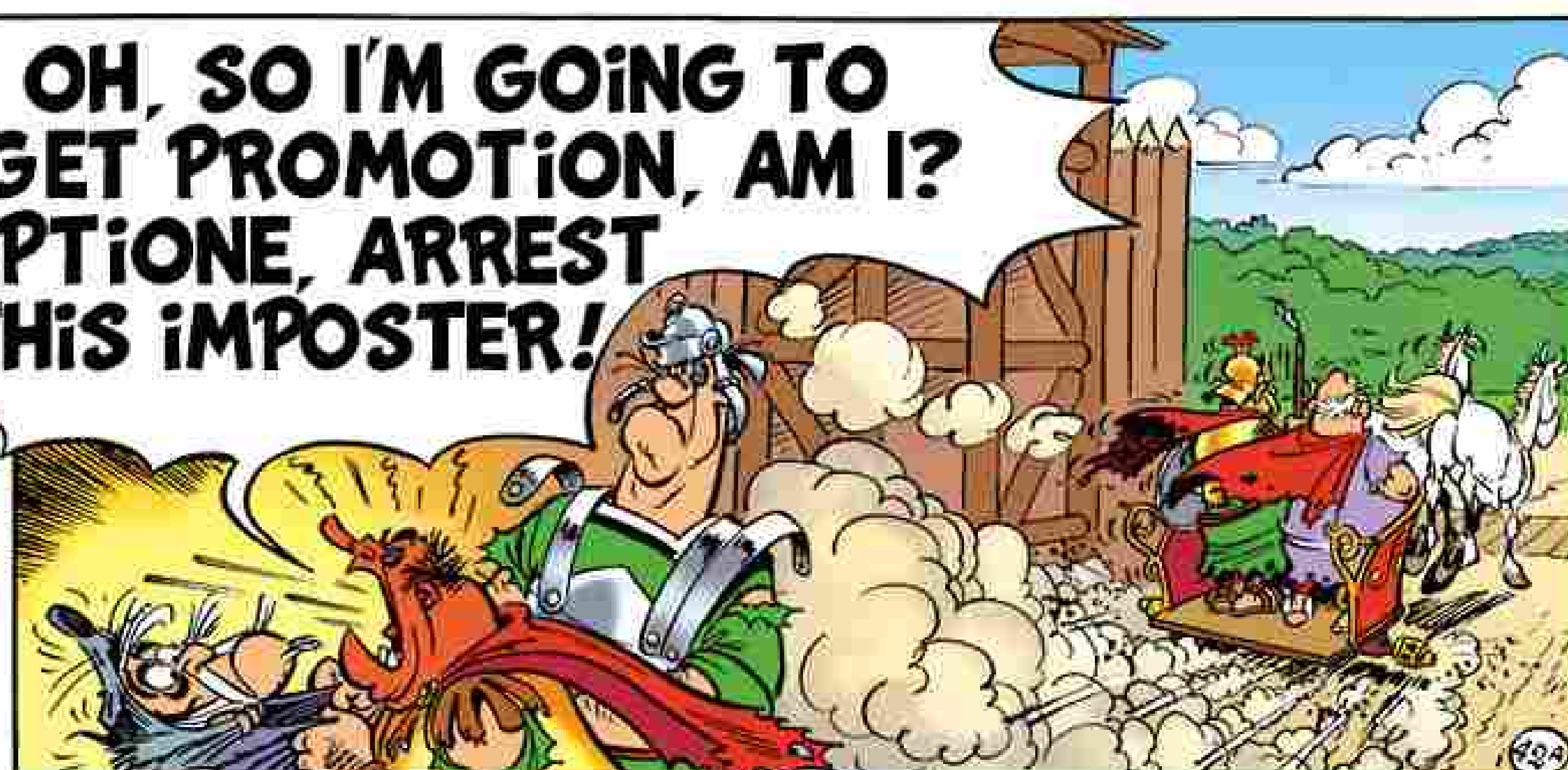


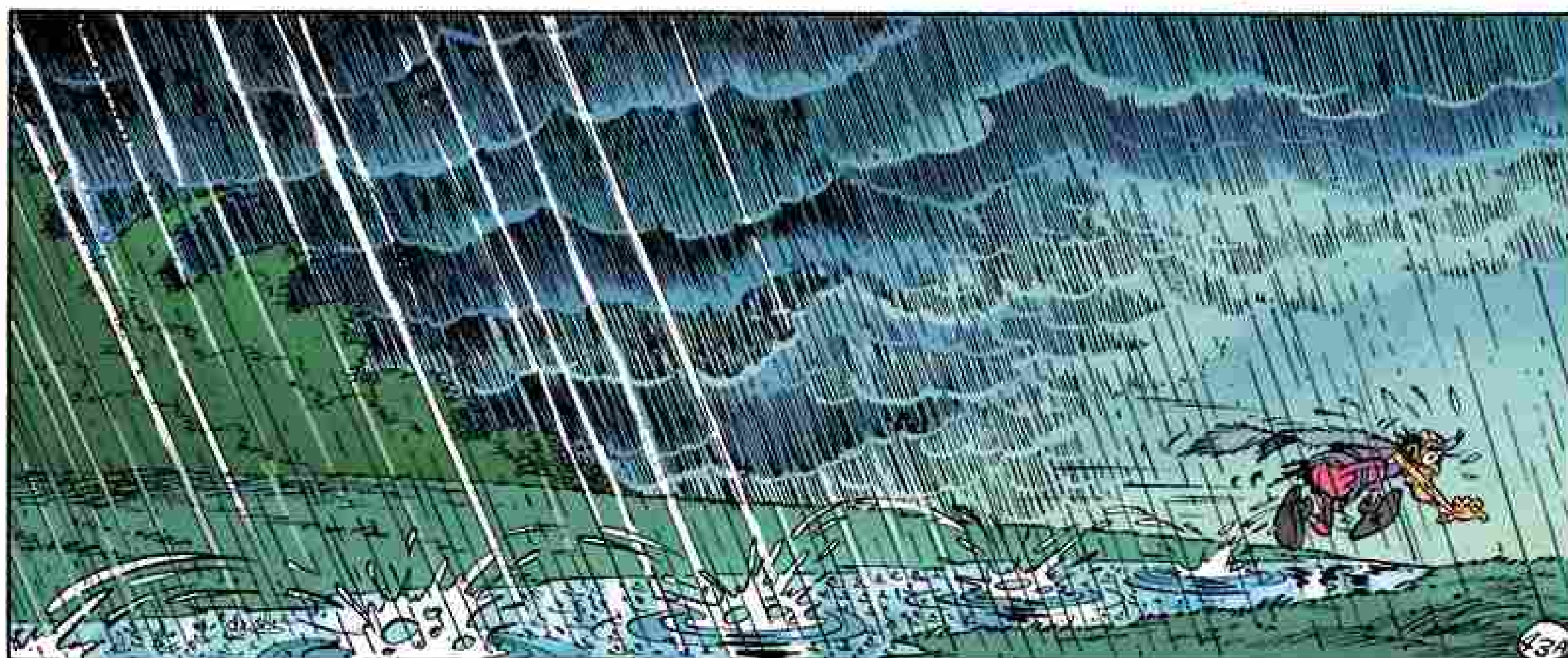


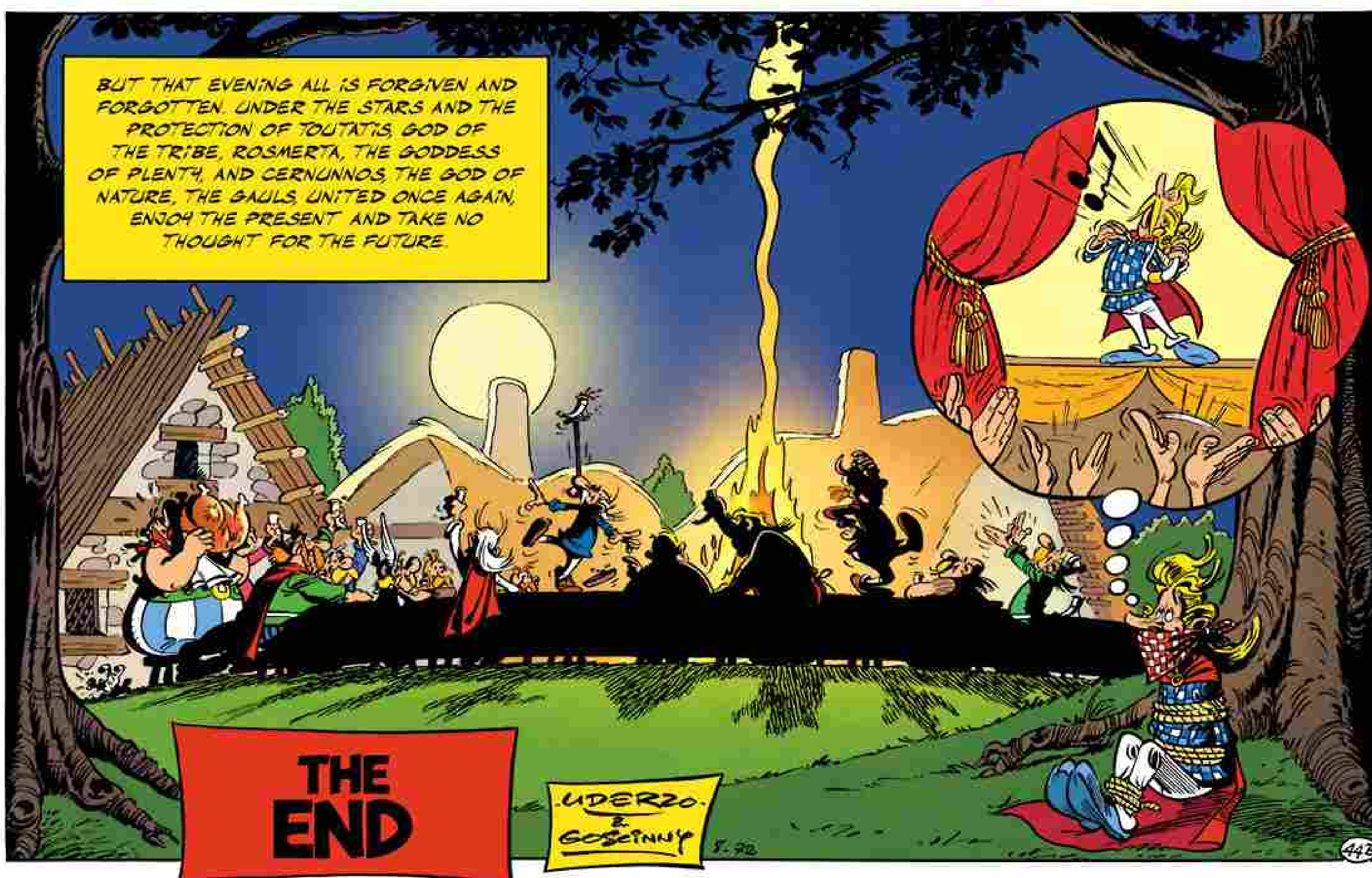
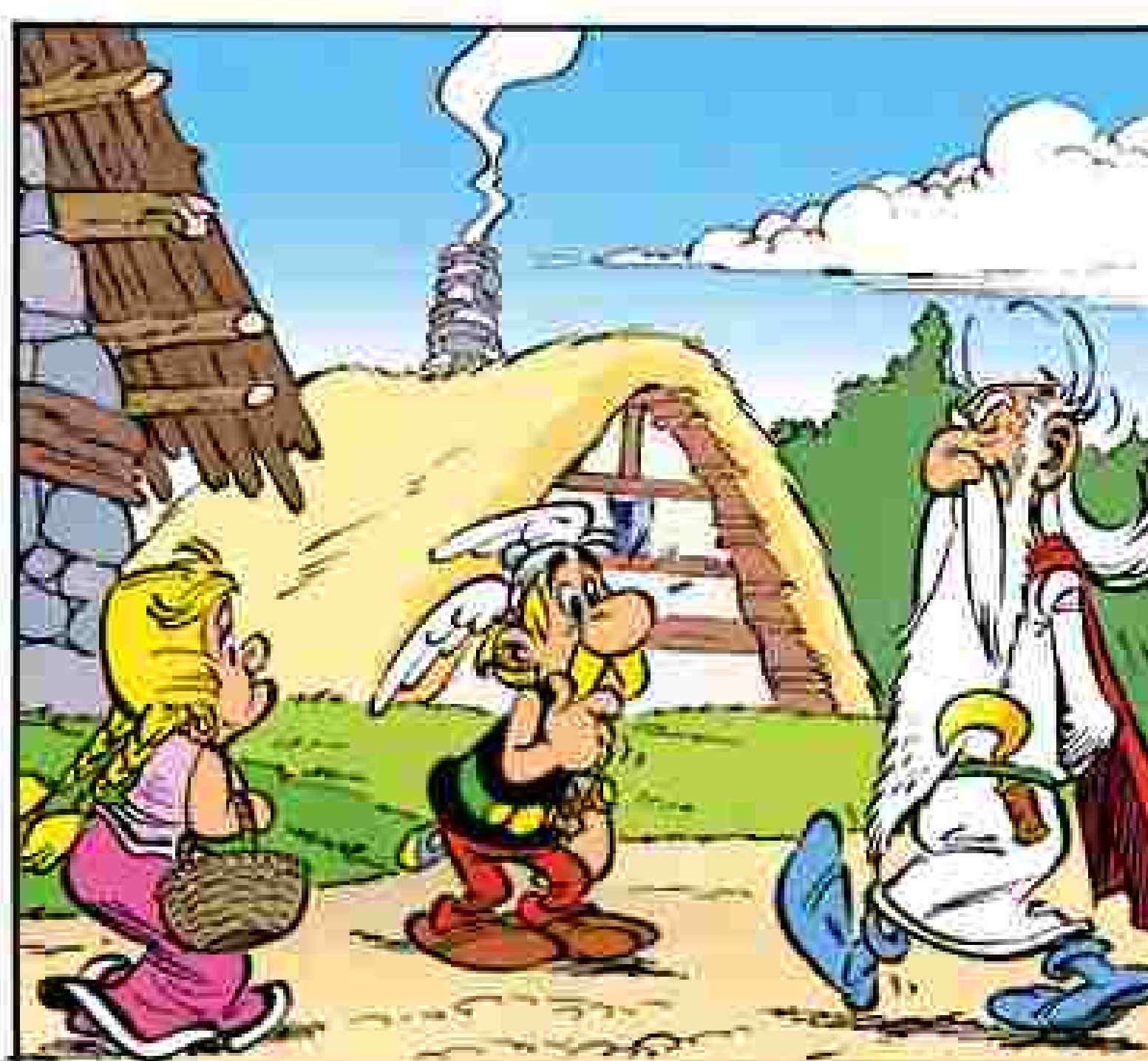
















I FEEL
A BIT WEAK,
GETAFIX ...

NO, OBELIX! YOU
ARE NOT HAVING ANY MAGIC
POTION! YOU KNOW VERY WELL
YOU FELL INTO THE CAULDRON
WHEN YOU WERE A BABY, AND
IT HAD A PERMANENT
EFFECT ON YOU!

One
dark and
stormy night,
a sinister figure
arrives in the little
Gaulish village.
Prolix, who claims
to be a soothsayer,
prophesies that when
the storm is over the
weather will improve.

And it does!

Now the credulous
villagers believe every word
he says, but Asterix has
his suspicions of the
smooth-talking Prolix.
Who is really right about
the soothsayer?

